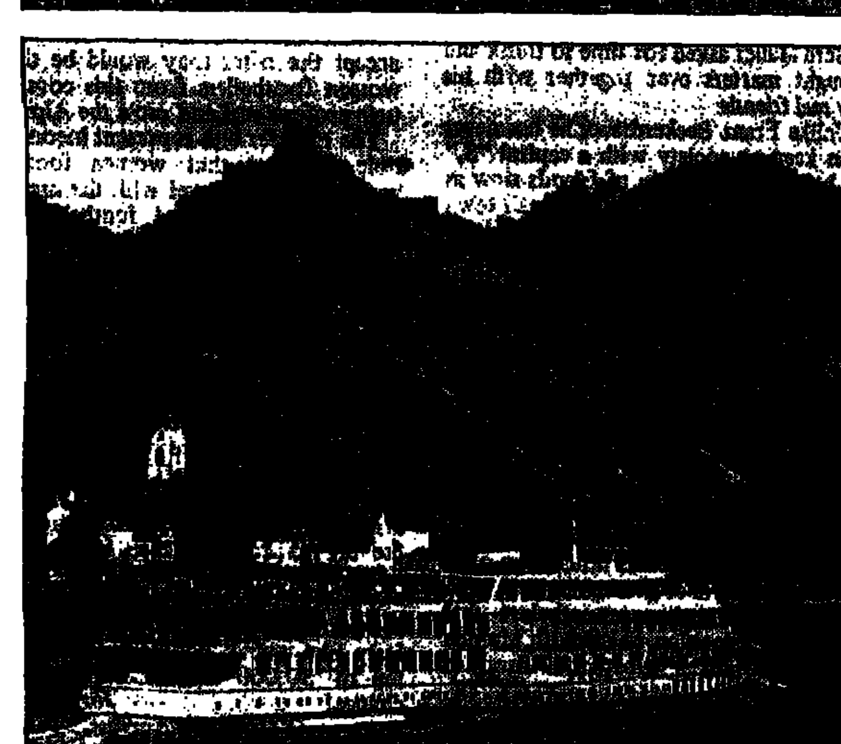








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Defence changes in Europe to be expected

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Washington's great debate on US troop strength in Europe is in full swing. The senate defence committee has slashed the government's manpower proposals for the armed forces by 150,000, and government and Congressional opponents of unilateral force reductions in Europe are increasingly worried.

In the House foreign affaires committee a fifteen-per-cent cut in current US troop strength in Europe of 307,000 men over a period of eighteen months, and further debate in a Senate committee and a fresh speech by Senator Mike Mansfield followed.

Senator Mansfield suggested halving current US troop strength of over 600,000 men abroad over a period of three years. The government, anxious to nip ideas of this kind in the bud, has called heavy artillery.

Assistant Secretary of State Kenneth Rush has warned against undermining the MBFR talks, and Defence Secretary Schlesinger also feels it to be advisable to maintain the existing balance of power rather than to make unilateral cuts.

It is a confusing business. The motion tabled in the House of Representatives will not be tied to a ceiling for military expenditure in Europe, so its stipulations will not be mandatory. In view of the government's earnest a resolution may not even be passed.

Were one to be passed, it would be vetoed by the President. But the Senate would well approve of troop cuts and the government is afraid lest the House emulate Senatorial sentiment.

This, then, is the prospect that the government has sought to avert ever since the Vienna round of mutual balanced force reduction talks began. The MBFR talks do, indeed, provide Washington with an opportunity of retaining the initiative.

There is a fair likelihood that the only decision Congress will take this year will be a reduction in the overall strength of the armed forces.

As the House has proposed more sweeping cuts than the Senate committee a compromise will probably be reached and the reductions be less drastic than they might have been.

Assuming that the Senate figure of 2,076,800 is maintained, there would be no overriding necessity for troop withdrawals from Europe.

As far as this year and the first stage of troop cut talks with the East are concerned, the situation does not look quite so gloomy, then, but the anxiety of those who want to hold the fort is nonetheless genuine.

They have more than this year in mind, and Senator Mansfield's arguments have a convincing ring for many Americans.

In view of cuts in domestic expenditure and several dollar devaluations, he says, troop costs come in for consideration. The cost of stationing US troops in Europe amount to an estimated 4,000 million dollars a year directly and 7,000 million dollars inclusive of ancillary expenditure.

The Pentagon maintains that bringing the boys back home would not result in savings, but in view of changing exchange rates this argument may no longer hold water. Besides, revaluation of the Mark has hit the US balance of payments.

An additional factor is that the cost of living in this country has increased by leaps and bounds, affecting both serving members of the US armed forces and their families.

Over the next few years conscription in the United States is to be abolished. Despite good pay and improved living conditions there are so few recruits with professional qualifications that the Army is already having to sign on school dropouts and others who are unlikely to make good soldier material.

This state of affairs is bound to lead to troop cuts, as may the development of new weapons techniques, radar and miniature nuclear devices.

Above all, however, the entire debate is taking place against a changed political background, both in ties between Nato countries and the Eastern Bloc and on the home front, where the authority of the President has taken a hammering as a result of the Wagergate affair.

In view of the sum total of political, financial and military developments a reappraisal has become indispensable.

The Defence Secretary has begun by promising acceptable solutions with regard to costs. Savings may be made by reducing the munber of servicemen's dependents in this country and reducing their tours of duty here. But this will hardly be the end of the story.

In the past proposals for major changes have been warded off by referring to the demoralising repercussions they would be sure to have in Europe and emphasising the weakness of Nato in comparison with the Eastern Bloc.

The current feeling – and it is a justifiable one – is that Europe must be realistic and expect changes, insisting only that such changes as are made take balance-of-power requirements into account in a political climate that does not seem to be fraught with danger all along the line.

This being the case, it might be preferable to indicate to Congress that Europe does not propose to be inflexible but would like to enter into negotiations with the Eastern Bloc in such a way that Nato retains a common viewpoint.

Defence Secretary Schlesinger is right in noting that the usual references to the allegedly overwhelming military superiority of the other side are no longer sufficient to convince Congress of the need for maintaining a troop strength that even America's allies no longer consider to be necessarily sufficient.

A more satisfactory argument in favour of maintaining US troop strength on this side of the Atlantic would be to estimate a feasible power balance. This is what Nato would do well to work on.

Hans B. Meyer

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 1 August 1973)

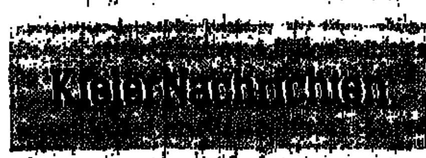


Grand Prix winner

Jackie Stewart won the German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring on 5 August. Stewart did the 14 laps in 1 hr 42 mins 3 secs at an average speed of 188 kilometres per hour. The total distance of the 14 laps was 319.7 kms. (Photo: Wilfried Witters)

IN THIS ISSUE

Bonn and Sofia to establish diplomatic ties



Bonn's *Ostpolitik* is slowly coming to a successful conclusion, one of the last hurdles having been scaled now that full diplomatic ties are to be established with Bulgaria.

For several years policy towards the Eastern Bloc has been to come to terms and to aim at detente and the establishment of normal relations with the countries of the so-called socialist camp.

Following intensive talks between Bulgarian and Bonn Foreign Office officials in this country, the two sides agreed to establish full diplomatic relations shortly. The formal agreement will probably be signed late this summer by Bonn Foreign Minister Walter Scheel during his visit to the Bulgarian capital.

Contacts with Sofia were forged only a few weeks ago against the background of the European security conference in Helsinki. Ties were also established with Budapest, and full diplomatic relations with Hungary are expected to follow before the year is out.

Bonn and Sofia reached agreement relatively swiftly in view of the fact that there are next to no bilateral problems outstanding. Links might have been forged long ago but for the Bulgarian determination to demonstrate solidarity with a fellow-member of the Eastern Bloc and not come to terms with Bonn before ties were established between Bonn and the GDR and Bonn and Czechoslovakia.

All is now clear for swift intensification of relations between this country and Bulgaria, which have traditionally been cordial – a tradition that Sofia is eager to re-establish in cultural and trade relations.

Bulgaria is in the process of developing from an agricultural to an industrialised country, and there is ample opportunity for this country to intensify its ties.

Horst Opitz

(Kieler Nachrichten, 3 August 1973)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Non-aligned countries prepare for Algiers summit

Standing on the battlefield by the Sutjeska, a Bosnian mountain stream where one of the most dramatic engagements between the German occupation troops and the encircled high command of the Yugoslav partisans took place in the early summer of 1943, President Tito recalled, early this July, the fate of his closest international associates in non-alignment, a movement that began more than a decade ago.

"Nehru is dead, Sukarno is dead, Nasser is dead," the 81-year-old Marshal declared with unmistakeable emotion, "but we who are left will carry on the work!"

Despite cat-calls from various quarters international interest in the policies of the non-aligned countries is on the increase, President Tito added confidently. These policies, he claimed, constituted the conscience of Mankind as a whole.

The non-aligned countries are to confer for the fourth time in Algiers during the first week in September and plan to be more vociferous and emphatic than ever before in their views on specific international problems of various kinds, but especially the growing gap between the economically highly-developed countries of the world and their backward neighbours.

In terms of number the Algiers conference will be the largest non-aligned summit ever, members coming mainly from the developing world of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Bearing in mind the weakness of this grouping in terms of power politics observers in the rich industrialised countries have been known to deride summits of this kind as meetings of have-nots, the poorest of the poor and the *lumpenproletariat* of the world.

Yet at the UN, if nowhere else, majority decision against the non-aligned nations, particularly the 77 Group specially concerned with development issues (now consisting of 98 countries, with the non-aligned nations as their most prominent spokesmen), are no longer feasible.

Doubtless in view of this development leading Western and Eastern Bloc politicians have abandoned their disdain of the Third World in recent years.

Compared with the number of countries represented at the first conference of non-aligned countries, held in Belgrade in 1961, their numerical strength has nearly trebled in twelve years.

At President Tito's invitation the heads of state and representatives of 25 countries and three observer states gathered together in Belgrade. In addition to Nehru, Nasser and Sukarno, the pioneers included U Nu of Burma and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana.

New names and new faces will characterise the Algiers summit. In comparison with Lusaka, where the last conference was held three years ago, the number of countries represented will have increased from 54 to seventy.

In recent years there have been a considerable number of newcomers from Latin America, making a current total of fourteen countries, whose representatives will include Salvador Allende of Chile, Fidel Castro of Cuba, Juan Domingo Peron of Argentina and Luis Echeverria of Mexico.

What is the idea and the motive force behind the non-aligned bloc, which was once condemned by John Foster Dulles as immoral, was originally rejected no less emphatically by the Soviet Union and rated by a number of Western European politicians as either an unprincipled show of fence-sitting between the great powers or "numerous, vociferous and ineffective"?

Initially, with the Cold War between Washington and Moscow still in progress, the non-aligned countries undoubtedly wanted to create a counterweight to this total polarisation and to gain prominence for a strain of neutralism.

One of the most significant results of the 1961 Belgrade summit was an appeal transmitted to the United States and the Soviet Union to agree to peaceful coexistence and negotiations.

Much of what the non-aligned countries advocated in those days has now become the day-to-day business of politics. Washington and Moscow are on better terms. China and the United States have started talking to one another. Detente is progressing in Central Europe. The war in Indo-China is tailing off.

"To a certain extent, you know, we were the ones who initiated this rapprochement," Tunisian Foreign Minister Masmoudi recently noted in an interview. The current process of detente is, he claimed, attributable to the policies of the non-aligned.

This, of course, is something of an exaggeration, yet it would be premature to conclude that now the superpowers are on better terms the non-aligned countries no longer mattered, having outlived their purpose.

The currently observable "practice of reaching understanding," to quote Marshal Tito's chief theoretician Edvars Kardelj, who will be attending the Algiers summit, renders the role of the non-aligned countries more important than ever.

They must endeavour to ensure that "this understanding genuinely conforms with the interests of all countries, thereby averting the danger of (rapprochement) becoming a means by which superpowers consolidate their internal predominance."

Yugoslavia itself at one of the [illegible] critical intersections of world [illegible] interests, so it is easy to understand [illegible] Belgrade is a particularly energetic [illegible] cate of the principles of non-align[illegible].

In the course of his visit to Yug[illegible] last April this country's Chancellor Br[illegible] commented frankly on the function [illegible] non-aligned group.

He advised them to extend re[illegible] cooperation, intensify their exchang[illegible] political views across ideological fr[illegible] and, above all, to improve m[illegible] political and economic cooperation.

This, of course, disregarding [illegible] moment the plethora of political co[illegible] between Asian and Arab membe[illegible] particular, is the Achilles heel of [illegible] nonaligned countries.

Their spokesmen rightly draw rep[illegible] attention to the worsening econ[illegible] position of the developing countri[illegible] relation to the far swifter growth [illegible] highly-developed nations (the ind[illegible] ness of the developing countri[illegible] reached the astronomic level of [illegible] million dollars), but their laments [illegible] the well-to-do industrial countries [illegible] much of the moral force for as long a[illegible] non-aligned countries fail to demon[illegible] convincingly their own efforts to [illegible] urgent economic problemes. Instead [illegible] outdo one another in senseless dom[illegible] prestige projects in many instances.

Most non-aligned countries are [illegible] course well aware of the fact. At [illegible] Georgetown conference of non-ali[illegible] Foreign Ministers in August last year [illegible] "action programme for economic co[illegible] ration" was drawn up.

Alongside accusations of racism [illegible] colonialism in Africa this topic is to [illegible] focal point of the Algiers conference.

Maybe a number of petroleum [illegible] Arab countries will be confronted [illegible] the provocative query as to why [illegible] speculate with their millions on We[illegible] markets instead of investing them [illegible] joint development fund.

Olaf Ih[illegible]

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1[illegible])

HOME AFFAIRS

FDP are not overshadowed by their big coalition partner

Once again the FDP is at the centre of political speculation, and not without its own doing. The question of the moment is: when will the Free Democrats break off the coalition with the SPD?

The question is either cheering or depressing in its topicality depending on one's political colours. And the topicality of the question results from the statements made in loud voices by a number of liberals about the transience of coalitions.

The fact is that the FDP's position in the Coalition in this legislative period is quite different from that in the previous one. Another fact is that parties cannot be shunted on to coalition sidings at will. These two facts determine the potentiality for political action by the FDP and their political radius of action.

Unlike the link-up of 1969–1972 the present coalition is not a joint venture by two hunted parties constantly fighting for survival. The coalition now has a comfortable majority allowing the SPD and FDP to fight out their differences of opinion in the open without pulling punches.

The free Democrats are taking advantage of this new freedom, with the North Rhine-Westphalians leading the way. And the Social Democrats are using the opportunity, too, especially their left wing.

This development is backed up by a greatly increased feeling of self-confidence within the two parties. Recent opinion polls have shown the SPD on the verge of an absolute majority, while the FDP has reached eleven per cent of the electorate and is still climbing. The CDU/CSU are struggling below the [illegible]y-per-cent level.

It is no wonder that many Social

DIE ZEIT

Democrats feel it is now time to aim for the absolute majority and to do so with an all-out socialist policy. It is not necessary to worry about the FDP, they feel, because the structure of that party's voting group means that the Free Democrats cannot break away from the Coalition.

As a matter of fact – despite real or imaginary changes in the CDU/CSU – there is no question of a changeover of coalitions until the Christian Democrats find a successful formula to win back their lost supporters.

Whatever discontent has so far arisen among the electorate about the Coalition and its policies the CDU/CSU have so far not been able to cash in on it.

And unless there is a major shift of the voting structure the question that will be asked at the 1976 general election will not be: what coalition will govern in Bonn? It will be: can the FDP prevent the Social Democrats' achieving the absolute majority?

As far as the structure of the electorate is concerned it is quite true that the FDP will not be able to afford a major reorientation in the near future – unless of course the SPD leadership is completely overwhelmed by the left-wing.

Many of those who voted for the FDP at the last election would only support the party within the framework of a coalition with the SPD. Analyses of the November 1972 elections show this clearly.

The question is whether the FDP can claim the allegiance of those who want an SPD/FDP coalition with the vital element of the liberal corrective so firmly that they would remain loyal even if the FDP joined in a different coalition.

This is possible, but only in the long term and only if the FDP can present itself as a Liberal-Socialist entity carrying on the policies outlined in the statement of government policy, in other words if the FDP can show that it has remained true to its word while the SPD has veered off to the far left.

This will not be achieved, however, if FDP members blurt out all their feelings about a possible switch of coalition. The party must instead hammer home its liberal-socialist position on all important domestic and foreign affairs platforms.

Pursuance of clear policies in Bonn will do far more to prove the FDP's independent nature to its electorate than taking the first opportunity of removing an SPD government (say in Lower Saxony) by forming a CDU/FDP coalition.

At the next party-political conference of the FDP the main question is scarcely likely to be the future of the Coalition, unless the FDP consciously intends to make its followers uncertain of their allegiances.

It will be up to the party to show its colours on important matters of domestic policy, such as tax reform, land law, accumulation of capital in private hands and worker participation in management.

These are the questions that will demonstrate what the FDP is worth. What can they prevent becoming law – and more important, what can they get put on the stature books?

Although the differences of opinion between the two government parties are still quite marked with regard to domestic policies they are very subtle when it comes to German and foreign policy.

It is hard to say to what degree political differences lie behind the dispute between Walter Scheel and Egon Bahr, a demarcation disagreement because the Foreign Ministry has virtually monopolised preparations for the European security conference and is now starting to play a much greater role in inter-German relations.

At any rate it is striking the way Walter Scheel emphasises that for him the Western Alliance takes priority and takes apparent delight in reeling off the obstacles that stand in the way of detente.

The days when the Foreign Office and its ministers stood in the shadow of the Chancellery are past and gone. No one now doubts Scheel's political stature. The main worry in the SPD is whether in fact Scheel and his Free Democrats carry too much weight in the Coalition.

Minor points

For the moment these differences of opinion are nothing more than the little points that always cause friction in a coalition. In the short term speculation about the future of the SPD/FDP coalition is therefore misplaced and in the medium term a split is unlikely.

Any idea that Walter Scheel will take over as President from Gustav Heinemann in 1974 has now been squashed. He will enter the 1976 election campaign as leader of his party and Willy Brandt's coalition partner.

It seems likely that the coalition question will start to become a problem at a later date – perhaps 1980. At any rate it will be after the Brandt/Scheel era.

Brandt and Scheel are linked by strong mutual trust which helped forge this coalition and has carried it through many a storm.

Rolf Zundel

(Die Zeit, 20 July 1973)

Warsaw Pact leaders meet in Crimea

Warsaw Pact Party leaders, including Nicolae Ceausescu of Rumania, are assembled for a summer summit in the Crimea, a favourite holiday haunt of old for Moscow VIPs. The summer summit has become something of a traditional event, though the Soviet leaders do not designate it as such.

This year it will probably prove particularly important, this being the first time the Warsaw Pact leaders have met since Leonid Brezhnev's visits to Bonn, Washington and Paris.

Even assuming that Soviet diplomats have already informed Communist leaders of the outcome of the talks with Chancellor Brandt and Presidents Nixon and Pompidou, there is no substitute for first-hand information.

Moscow's peace initiative, to use the term favoured by the socialist states, is being lent every assistance by the Warsaw Pact countries, but varying reports from individual Eastern Bloc capitals would seem to indicate that coordination is not all it might be.

The mass media in Czechoslovakia dealt in detail with General Secretary Brezhnev's visit to Bonn, for instance, but showed more reserve in their coverage of his visit to the United States. It is doubtless not merely a matter of not being able to keep pace with Soviet tempo but also one of domestic misgivings.

The westernmost members of the Warsaw Pact are less able to shield themselves from undesirable information from the West than is the Soviet Union. A stricter ideological dividing line is thus to be drawn.

With this aim in view the socialist countries have of late, almost unnoticed, concluded a number of agreements on ideological cooperation evidently intended solely to counteract the Western demand in Helsinki for a freer exchange of views and information.

At last year's Crimea summit the Warsaw Pact countries' policy on the German Question will have headed the agenda, particularly in relation to the treaty between Bonn and Prague and the ties with Budapest and Sofia that might follow it.

This year the multilateral repercussions of detente will probably head the list. During the first stage of the European security conference in Helsinki it grew apparent that the price that will have to be paid in return for success will prove higher than the smaller socialist countries in particular had expected.

The demands for a greater flow of information made by the West and neutral countries affect Iron Curtain border countries such as the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in particular. They, in return, are the most ardent in their attacks on imperialism and the "class enemy."

Rude Pravo, the official daily paper of the Czech Communist Party, recently reiterated a warning that rapprochement would be tantamount to abandoning the class struggle.

At the Crimean summit the Soviet Union will have to outline what it proposes to do to dispel these fears. The action it takes will, of course, need to be related to the economic situation.

Soviet Premier Kosygin's intimation in Vienna that Comecon is considering establishing a direct link with the European Community in Brussels has yet to be the subject of comment in Eastern European capitals. There can be no mistaking the anxiety of Poland and Rumania in particular lest these direct links commit them to follow too closely in Moscow's footsteps and limit their own freedom of action.

The last Comecon meeting in Prague failed to reach agreement on current diffences of opinion. The Soviet Union is having a harder time than a few years ago in gaining approval of its concept of "complex socialist economic integration," all the more so in view of the fact that it would like to cut back its contributions to fellow-members – in the fuel and power sector, for instance.

So many bones of contention have accumulated that a top-level discussion has long been necessary.

There will be two main reasons why the Crimean summit has again been declared to be no more than a coincidental holiday arrangement. The first is to render the whole proceedings less dramatic. As [illegible] the general public expect a [illegible] meeting to come to some conclusi[illegible] other, but in the present instance [illegible] none is likely or such as are reached [illegible] not be for publication.

Secondly, according to strict pr[illegible] the only occasion for a meeting betw[illegible] Warsaw Pact Party leaders is a [illegible] conference in one or other of [illegible] countries concerned. The Crimean [illegible] ing would seem to have provi[illegible] convenient means of making top[illegible] contact with a minimum of pomp [illegible] circumstance.

Hans-Peter Ri[illegible]

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 31 July 1[illegible])

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Trades unions must fight extremism in their midst

The conflict between trades unions and the extremist wing of the SPD as well as with radical splinter groups that have formed themselves into a "red union opposition" is growing.

Among the obvious signs of this has been the all-out attack of Herr Essl, the Bavarian union leader, on the Young Socialists who want to support wildcat strikes, as well as an essay in the union publication *Welt der Arbeit* attacking radical union agitation in companies.

In this conflict the unions have clearly been put in their place as part of the social order in a free society. For the extremists want to make decisive changes to this order and thus to the position of the trades unions.

Essl's statements in Munich and in the union publication are basically a confirmation of this role within the social order.

And the postal workers' union has recently published a programme calling for changes in the economic set-up and in society, but clearly diverging greatly from the concept that was worked out on behalf of this union two years ago and which has as its aim far-reaching changes in the economy and society.

The document expressed ideas that could create a new position for the unions with the ultimate aim of overthrowing the free-enterprise economic system.

In the new programme put forward by the postal workers' union these points are [illegible] pressed, and their conspicuous absence could be regarded as being demonstrative.

Therefore the recognition of the need for reforms can be taken as a clear indication of the function of the unions in the social order.

In the course of the past twenty years the unions themselves have repeatedly come out with the accusation that by adopting a pay and social welfare structure that conforms to the free enterprise economy they would be denying their Marxist roots, while at the same time pursuing a policy of appeasement and integration with "capitalism".

For years the unions have been dodging such accusations and thus the basic conflict over whether they are to be a factor in the normal order of what they call "capitalism", but which is in fact far from being capitalism in the classic sense, or whether they are to work for the overthrow of such an order.

Such shortcomings put them in a difficult position with regard to defending themselves against the attacks of radicals. For among young theoreticians, who act as advisers to trades unions, there has recently been a growth in theorotical, Marxist-orientated criticism of the free enterprise economic system.

Seriously the question is being asked whether price rises are the result of oligo-political markets, or whether rising prices result from a politically determined "running amok of businessmen" in which employers associations have a hand.

Economic policies designed to create currency stability, doubts about the autonomy of collective bargaining in the light of wage demands that undermine stability, as well as the setting-up of concerted action are all supposed to back up the supposed positions of power held by industrialists and help to break the power of the unions.

These are just a few examples. They

Frankfurter Allgemeine

show that people are no longer thinking in terms of economic contexts but in terms of ideological power categories.

The more these radicals can spread their tentacles in such a large organisation, offering them ample space to try out their plans for overthrowing the system the more difficult it will be for the union confederation to ward off attacks from radicals outside the organisation.

Basically these neo-Marxist theoreticians within the union confederation are of a similar stamp to the Juso strategists, with the difference that at the same time they call into question the authority of the unions, while the revolutionaries within the Unions want to do away with the social order of this country with the aid of that very union authority and union power.

If those members of the union executive who are concerned with practical union policies allow themselves to be forced into a framework of radical thought by their spiritual advisers they could find themselves in a highly uncomfortable position.

They will give rise to suspicions that they are in opposition to radicals outside the unions simply because they fear for their own authority and position.

Those who allow attacks on the free enterprise economy from within union ranks using the same arguments as those put forward by extremist groups outside the unions will only be able to offer weak resistance if one day there is a threat to transform the organisation into a radical instrument.

Unionists will only be able to fight off attacks by extremists in the long run if they fight the fight because of a basically positive attitude towards the social set-up in the Federal Republic and not because they fear for their jobs.

This would not involve the unions' castrating their willingness and ability to push through reforms. Only if they can blow away the clouds of Marxism from their reforming zeal are they likely to make effective progress.

Ernst Günter Vetter

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 31 July 1973)

■ WORKING CONDITIONS

Volkswagen tries to reduce assembly-line boredom

The assembly lines at the five Volkswagen factories in this country stop once every two hours and the 22,000 assembly-line workers – just over one third of Volkswagen's total labour force of 65,000 – are able to drink their coffee, milk or beer and eat their sandwiches.

Ten minutes later the assembly lines are switched on again and the automobile production process can resume. The thousands of individual "operations" continue monotonously at the rate determined by means of a stopwatch and metre rule until the next break.

But does this ten-minute break conform to Paragraph 91 of the new industrial relations law which demands that the labour process should be arranged in a fashion fit for human beings?

This country's car manufacturers are not certain, as the formation of the "assembly line working party" in the autumn of 1972 reveals. All automobile firms – with the exception of Porsche – belong to this organisation.

The establishment of the organisation is by no means coincidental. Assembly-line working – first introduced one hundred years ago in the Chicago slaughter-houses by a man named Taylor who thus made his fortune – has now fallen into ill-repute all over the world.

Motor manufacturers, who have been dependent on the assembly line since Henry Ford started mass production of his Tin Lizzie on 1 April 1913, have been racking their brains for a solution for some time.

An increasing number of workers are fleeing from this production method – as many as 52 per cent left Volvo in 1969 for instance. Volvo therefore took the sensational decision to end assembly-line working which divides the manufacturing

SüddeutscheZeitung

process into a number of individual operations.

Instead, the whole manufacturing process is now the responsibility of the various work groups. Fifteen per cent of Volvo's 45,000-strong labour force are already working according to this new scheme, a delegation of the Federal Republic's metalworkers trade union found on their recent trip to Sweden.

The Volkswagen management has so far sent no one to Sweden to investigate this method but Herr Kugland of the welfare department, himself a member of the assembly line working party, is collecting all the facts he can about this new scheme and providing the board with information.

But Kugland and his staff are not faced with the same problems as other automobile manufacturers. "Volkswagen produces forty vehicles an hour on one of its assembly lines, the Americans one hundred and Fiat 250," he explains.

Pace increases with production as does the danger of turning the worker into a human automaton forced to carry out a series of rapid movements within the space of a few seconds.

Workers at the Volkswagen factory in Wolfsburg have one and a half minutes to carry out each individual operation. American car workers have 0.6 minutes and those at Fiat no more than 0.4.

Volkswagen produces 284 vehicles per assembly line every shift three shifts a day "We have tended to combine more and more individual operations so that each assembly-line worker has to carry out six to eight different tasks," Kugland states.

An increasing number of parts are being taken off the assembly line and distributed to "desk workers" for assembly. Dashboards for instance are pieced together by just one worker and roll on to the final assembly line in complete form. The same is true of the electric leads, rear lights and windscreen wipers. The new Passat's bumpers with their built-in indicators and rubber buffers are also produced at workshop tables instead of on the assembly line.

Other manufacturing processes are being automated. "Work groups at Volvo still have to fit the tyres, we do it automatically," Kugland explains. The assembly lines themselves were converted in 1966 from surface assembly, involving a good deal of stopping for the worker, to suspended assembly. New models such as the Passat are all produced on suspended assembly lines.

Volkswagen plans to combat the problem of assembly line boredom by constantly making improvements and introducing a more rapid rota system under which workers will not be expected to work such long hours on an assembly line.

Planners at Wolfsburg do not consider the present stage of the Volvo system as all that rational. "We produce five thousand vehicles a day compared with Volvo's 130. Our cheapest car costs 5,600 Marks, the cheapest Volvo costs seventeen thousand," they state.

All assembly-line working could theoretically be scrapped and replaced by some other system, Kugland claims, though the finished product would then be considerably more expensive.

The metalworkers union delegation were however told by Volvo directors that though production drops initially as a result of the changeover from assembly-line to group production the former level is soon reached and quality is better.

The delegation spent two days ... three Volvo works. The most ... example of the group system they ... was the manufacture of car seats ... are produced by a group of forty ... men and women, each of whe... capable of manufacturing the seat ... or her own.

The group chooses its own fore... though it can later vote him out of of... and allocates work to its members. ... wage system has been standard... though this is where Herr Ehlers member of the delegation, found ... "There are different types of work ... must be subject to different ... pay," he claimed.

Herr Ziegler, who was also in the ... that toured Sweden, discovered ... social-psychological problem: "Mem... of a group regulate their own work ... As they are not all equally fast the... always the danger of them excluding ... slower colleagues as they hinder the ... of the group."

Initial stages

When they raised these criticisms ... members of the metalworkers ... delegation were told that the ... workers could form a group of their ... Ehlers found the answer too vague ... the delegation's Swedish hosts ... evaded other searching questions ... concludes that the whole scheme is ... its infancy and far from perfect.

The fact that the group can also ... their foremen out of office is ... considered an adequate safety-valve ... pent-up anger either. The Volks... management fears that losses would ... high as a result of friction if a ... order had to be established with... group;

Volkswagen prefers to retain ... current hierarchy – each assembl... consists of four sections supervis... two heads, and four foremen who ... some two hundred assembly-line wor... or more depending on the model ... produced.

Josef Schm...

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 24 ...)

Bayer pioneers capital wealth accumulation scheme

Capital wealth accumulation is a favourite topic of discussion but most people link it with State-run schemes or consider it a good opportunity of increasing their influence within the firms where they work. Bayer, the Leverkusen-based chemicals firm, is one of the pioneers in this field and has come up with something new.

Bayer has been encouraging its employees to acquire productive capital for the past twenty years. The concern first allowed its workers to buy special shares at preferential rates in 1953. Since 1965 this offer has been extended to Bayer stock.

During the past twenty years Bayer's employees have bought 95 million Marks' worth of shares and twelve million Marks' worth of bonds. Forty per cent of the shares have been resold during this period but normally only so that workers could switch to another form of investment, usually to buy a home of their own.

Sixteen per cent of the shares issued have been transferred by their purchasers to a deposit account at their bank, leaving the trustee company responsible for administering them with some 45 million Marks' worth of shares and over ten million Marks' worth of bonds.

Bayer employees thus regard these shares as a long-term investment. Some twenty thousand of them own shares and stock making up about three per cent of Bayer's basic capital.

During discussions on capital wealth accumulation a common and justified objection can be heard. If a worker gains a financial share in his employer's concern, any threat to his job could also endanger his capital. In other words, if his firm went bankrupt he would be out of a job and no longer have his savings to fall back on.

But Bayer can certainly not be described as instab le nor is it threatened by bankruptcy. The concern has therefore adhered to its traditional method and spent over 1.3 million Marks buying shares on the stock exchange to sell to its employees at a rate eight per cent below that normally quoted and also pay the income tax raised on them.

But Bayer has pioneered a second course. Recipients of the annual bonus – which amounted to between 20 und 25 per cent of the average monthly income in 1972 – are promised a further five per cent if they agree to purchase shares in an employee fund and not re-sell them within the space of three years. Here too Bayer pays the income tax raised.

This issue of shares linked with they playment of the annual bonus should provide initial impetus for the new concept of increased capital wealth accomulation. Thus fund is also open to all Bayer employees who wish to invest more of their savings. It will also be at the disposal of those persons investing under the third capital wealth accumulation law, commonly know as the 624-Mark law. The fund will contain both shares and fixed-interest certificates which will be issued in multiples of ten Marks.

The time limit for buying shares and certificates was extended to the end of June. Eighty-nine per cent of the recipients of an annual bonus have taken up the offer. This represents a complete success for the initiators of the scheme.

The employees cevered by the scheme bought shares worth almost five million Marks. But some ten million Marks flowed into the fund. Other employees apart from those who receive annual bonuses displayed interest in the scheme (senior executives for instance receive no annual bonus).

Investment funds in the Federal Republic cannot by very happy about the success of the Bayer experiment. If this example is followed by many other firms a considerable amount of savings will be drawn into new channels. Bayer has already received a number of inquiries from other large firms and associations.

The success or failure of a share fund is measured in the initial period against the issuing value. Seen in this light, the current slump on share markets provides a favourable background.

The decisions as to how the mo... to be invested is taken by an invest... committee consisting of members of ... works council, management repre... tives and financial experts.

The fund is administered by D... (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Fondsver... tung), a subsidiary of Deutsche ... Bayer itself covers the costs ... administration so the issuing pri... always identical with the repurch... price.

The organisers of the scheme ch... treasury-type fund as there would ... been no sense in issuing dividends bea... in mind the small face value of the share... The dividends, interest and rises in the ... stock exchange rate will be added to the ... capital.

Bayer's new scheme displays a nu... of similarities with the methods ... ployed over the last two years by ... Linde concern and the Vereinigte Aluminium Werke. These firms have ... set up funds though without additio... financial backing on the part of ... employers. These funds are meant ... provide an opportunity for capital we... investment under the 624-Mark law.

The fund established by the Ba... concern has a political significa... Concrete action has been taken in ... to the verbose discussions conducted ... the issue of capital wealth accumula... If more firms adopt schemes simila... that of Bayer the more importance ... be attached to them in discussions on ... pros and cons of various methods.

As capital wealth accumulation wi...

Continued on page 5

■ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

Theologian Hans Küng not satisfied by Vatican reply

The Vatican recently published a document entitled *Mysterium Ecclesiae* at the instigation of Pope Paul VI. Its purpose was anything but mysterious however – it rejected attacks on the claim of papal infallibility and took up a stance against one of the most prominent critics of this doctrine. But what lies behind this theological dispute?

Professor Hans Küng, the 44-year-old priest and theologian from Tübingen, has kindled the flames of a new dispute within the Catholic Church. Two proceedings are currently being conducted against him in Rome before the Congregation of Religious Doctrine. Küng, born in Switzerland, is accused of disregarding and falsely interpreting Church dogma.

Both offences are to be found in the two books that brought Hans Küng international successes in the Christian bestseller lists. In 1967 he caused annoyance with his book *The Church*. In 1971 he shocked people with *Infallible? An Inquiry* in which he turned to the weak points of the definition of papal infallibility which was declared dogma one hundred years ago.

Instead of ending proceedings, the Congregation issued a long statement which does not mention Küng by name but unmistakably calls him to order. Küng only needs to agree to the statement and the proceedings against him will be stopped, the Vatican says.

But this goes against the grain with Küng, whom even friends refer to as a Swiss boy brought up on goat's milk. He wants to be put on trial. He wants his questions to be answered and refuses to content himself with the general protestations of traditional doctrine contained in the Congregation statement – he wishes to hear plausible explanations.

This persistent questioner refuses to be classed as either left-wing or revolutionary. He is disliked as much by the intolerant dogmatists of the left as by the traditionalists who stand watch over German Catholicism. Hans Küng is not only clever – his is also a pious theologian who depends on his Church.

He refuses to turn his back on the Church and oblige his large number of opponents. He does not wish to leave his friends, among them a number of bishops, alone in the Church.

When Küng criticises the Church he is only putting into words what many people feel yet cannot express clearly enough. Many people see their doubts and thoughts echoed by Küng. That above all explains his international appeal.

It is no coincidence that the Vatican's Congregation of Religious Doctrine only protested against and rejected his inquiries when he turned to papal infallibility.

The dogma of papal infallibility in questions concerning faith and morals is one of the fundamental elements of Catholic doctrine. The Church claims that the Holy Ghost is once again manifesting itself in this dogma.

Küng has a number of historical and theological doubts and knows he shares the good society not only of theologists belonging to many different religions but also the minority of bishops whose splendid theological and historical arguments were overruled at the First Vatican Council in the summer months of 1870.

The dogma of papal infallibility is only one hundred years old. Admittedly there were no doubts about the supreme position of the Bishop of Rome beforehand either. Küng too refuses to challenge his supreme position.

But up to 1870 the Church had always refused to allow the Pope and Bishop of Rome to define doctrine independently of the approval of the Church in general and the episcopal collegiate in particular.

It was only the First Vatican Council held in 1869 and 1870 that granted Pope Pius IX and his successors a power that had not been known within the Church before. A large minority of bishops rebelled against raising papal infallibility to a dogma. They included all the German bishops apart from the bishops of Paderborn and Regensburg.

They begged the Pope not to define doctrine as there was no clearly-based apostolic tradition for it. Bishop Hefele of Rotenburg, the author of a history of the Vatican Council, tried to make the Vatican change its mind by pointing, among other events, to the historically indisputable fact that Pope Honorius had been condemned by his successor Leo II as a heretic in the seventh century.

But this pointer to past history and tradition did not achieve its end. "What is tradition?" the Pope asked. "I am traditon!"

Shortly before the final vote a delegation of the minority, to which the Bishop of Mainz, von Ketteler, belonged, once again tried to make the Pope agree to a codicil that his statements on doctrine must be based on the testimony of the Church. Ketteler threw himself down before the Pope and begged him to display a little indulgence and this restore peace and harmony among the bishops.

But the minority was unable to convince the Pope's supporters who aimed at tighter controls and greater centralisation within the Church. The papal infallibility ruling was made even more severe by adding a codicil expressly stating that the Pope's definiton of doctrine did not require the approval of the Church. The minority of bishops was so depressed that they left Rome before the final decision was taken.

The new dogma brought the Church a number of theological and political problems. It influenced the *Kulturkampf* the battle between State and Catholicism which broke out in Germany shortly afterwards. But it also strengthened links between Catholics and the Pope and gave the Church greater uniformity.

The Second Vatican Council did not impinge upon the dogma of papal infallibility though it did stress the powers of the episcopal collegiate. Küng, whom Pope John XXIII summoned to Rome as a theologian to the Vatican Council, is doubtlessly correct when he states in rather exaggerated style that nobody could prevent the Pope doing as he pleased after the Second Council.

But the Küng case demonstrates that the Vatican has learned a good deal in recent years. No threats of excommunication have been heard though this was a common reply to protest in the past. Inquiries, Küng states, can no longer be answered by condemnation.

If he is in error, he wishes to know exactly where he is in error and is as much convinced of the justification of his questions after the statement issued by the Congregation as he was beforehand.

Ulrich Eckhardt

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 12 July 1973)

Continued from page 4

the firm is inadequate for a number of reasons Bayer has put into practice a new form of capital wealth accumulation operating at a level above that of the individual firm. One particularly important aspect is that this scheme presents no danger of capital wealth accumulation leading to gradual nationalisation.

Karl Stützle

(Deutsche Zeitung, 20 July 1973)

Jehovah's Witnesses meet in Düsseldorf

Crowds of people carrying bathing costumes and towels in their hold-alls streamed past Düsseldorf's new stadium to the neighbouring indoor swimming pool. They were led by a helper bearing a placard reading "Baptism".

There was a smell of chlorine and a dozen men stood waist-deep in the water. They could not be described as athletic types but they were well-built and all wore a white shirt above their swimming trunks.

The people in the processions, now wearing only the barest essentials, pushed to the edge of the pool, walked down the few steps, were received by the helpers and submerged for a few moments. Most of them clasped their fingers round their nose. Nobody sang or prayed aloud.

In all, 1,085 Jehovah's Witnesses demonstrated in this fashion that they repented their sins and wanted to change their lives and follow Jehovah. This was their form of baptism which they derive from the Bible and the original meaning of the Greek word *baptisma* – submerge.

Before attending the baptism they had proved in their home towns that they

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knew the scriptures. They had to supply correct answers to as many as possible of the eighty questions they were asked at a number of meetings.

Once they could answer these questions, they were considered ready for inclusion in the community of Jehovahs Witnesses who recently held their international congress in Düsseldorf.

Some sixty thousand persons attended the congress, the largest that has ever taken place in Düsseldorf. The mass assembly had its own rules. Never before had so many people gathered in such an orderly and disciplined manner. The rich green turf on which Fortuna Düsseldorf's footballers normally play was as untouched on Friday, the day of the mass baptism, as it had been on the Monday when the congress began.

A large stage consisting of wood, painted cardboard and paper had been built on one of the narrower sides of the giant concrete oval. A yellow and red parasol was the only object it boasted. The symphony had retired behind an artificial forest clearing.

Each day of the congress began with a song – happy rhythmic tunes without many sacral elements. Different preachers, clad in normal dress, would then talk of the Bible applauded by the multitude and time and again interrupted by prayers. This was repeated day after day. Four Biblical dramas were presented.

The gospel of the Jehovah's Witnesses is simple and clear – The Bible is God's word and is prophetic for this world. That is why we have to learn from it and live according to its behest.

Though this belief is no different from that of the Evangelical and Catholic Churches there was a difference in atmosphere from, for example, the Evangelical Church Congress which had taken place at the same venue a few weeks previously.

A preacher by the name of Rachuba for instance spoke on the Friday about the baptism of those who have not disowned themselves. He quoted the Bible time and again, but he stuck to the text and he focussed upon it in a more moralising than reflective manner. Certainty of faith seemed to be fed by Biblical erudition. Each of his demands on the faithful was backed up by an appropriate passage from the Bible.

The congress programme did not include discussions, not to mention events such as the "liturgical night" that caused such a furore at the Evangelical Church Congress.

"There is only one Truth and there is therefore no need to discuss it," a spokesman claimed. This truth is passed down the hierarchy to the masses. The international organisation prescribed every word of what preachers were to tell the crowds at the Düsseldorf congress. The international organisation is based in the United States and consists of eleven elders headed by Nathan H. Knorr.

An umbrella organisation exists in every country – the Federal Republic branch is at present run by an American called Kelsey. Below the national organisation come the local assemblies. All their members are known as preachers. At present there are some one hundred thousand Jehovah's Witnesses in the Federal Republic.

Their world is alien and strangely confined. We look upon Jehovah's Witnesses as never-tiring salesmen who hawk their periodical *The Watchtower* in all weathers and stand at the roadside like a sturdy pillar of warning.

Many people distrust them and have adopted a defensive attitude in view of their frequent door-to-door campaigns. They are also ridiculed because of their forecasts that the end of the world is nigh, forecasts that have not so far proved accurate.

Eight thousand of them were confined in concentration camps under the Nazi regime. Because they refuse to accept earthly laws when they run contrary to the laws of God they are liable to prosecution when, for instance, they refuse to do either military service or the alternative non-military duties provided for by the laws of the Federal Republic.

The Jehovah's Witnesses have thus become a group on the fringe of society, even though they claim to represent a cross-section of the whole sociological structure of the Federal Republic – "from the worker to the company director".

The Protestant Church is quick to disclaim them. When Düsseldorf was chosen as the venue for their congress, the heads of the Rhine Church distributed 85,000 pamphlets to all Protestants in the area stating that though the Jehovah's Witnesses take their religious duties very seriously they often display fanaticism and intolerance.

As the Jehovah's Witnesses have split "both internally and externally from the community of Jesus Christ", the pamphlet warns against their missionary work. The only way to combat them is by means of firm Christian belief.

Though they have been branded sectarians by the official Church, the Jehovah's Witnesses are not troubled by the fact. Their eight thousand voluntary helpers managed to organise and conduct their recent congress with efficiency.

As they are convinced that the end of the world is due within a Biblical generation of seventy or eighty years, dating fom 1914, and should therefore be upon us very soon, they have increased their efforts.

Between January 1973 and January 1974 the same programme as has been held in Düsseldorf is taking place in 67 cities in 43 States thoughout the world. The Düsseldorf congress catered for all Jehovah's Witnesses living north of the Rhine-Main line. "Brothers" and "sisters" living to the south of this demarcation line meet in Munich between 1 and 5 August to help construct Jehovah's Kingdom.

Dirk Bavendamm

(Süddeutsche Zeigung, 28 July 1973)

■ THE ECONOMY

Stability: the price must be paid

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Trouble is afoot. Does the economy face a recession or even a full-scale crisis? Many pundits fear this may be the case and call for an immediate slackening of the economic reins, particularly credit restrictions, even though the brakes have only just been applied. Many of the current restrictions have only been in force for a few weeks and were prematurely underestimated as ineffective.

But making money dearer and scarcer has proved to have more bite than expected, especially now that the Bundesbank is no longer obliged to engage in buying to support the dollar, having joined the European bloc float, and reserve deposit and other regulations have made it more difficult to raise cash abroad.

Foreign exchange still finds its way into this country via support buying within the scope of the European currency bloc, and from the monetary viewpoint it would be better for the Mark to go it alone. In a few months' time this might well prove inevitable.

Yet in comparison with the enormous amounts of dollars purchased in the past and now, to all intents and purposes, cluttering up the foreign exchange reserves of the Bundesbank the current influx of foreign exchange is relatively modest.

Over the next few months there will be an automatic easing of the liquidity bottleneck, if not of credit restrictions, by way of support buying of most currencies engaged in the joint float. So soon after the last revaluation the Mark cannot be upgraded yet again, but it is already the hardest of the European bloc once more.

For the time being, at any rate, the long-awaited effect has come about. The brakes are beginning to tell. Already there are laments that the screw has been turned too far The people who are complaining are the ones who only a few weeks ago were most vociferous in their calls for stability and their not unwarranted accusations that the government had been fence-sitting for far too long.

Do they not realise that the further an inflation has progressed the more difficult and risky it becomes to combat? Do they fail to grasp that more is at stake than generating price trends?

Were the reins to be slackened prematurely the current rate of inflation would be increased by a futher boom which, in the final analysis, would call the entire framework of the free-market economy into question.

If the current restrictions prove a failure because they are slackened prematurely inflation will be here to stay, eating its way into the economy. Eventually there would be no option but to impose a wage and price freeze and implement economic controls.

This, then, is what is at stake. In the weeks to come there will be ample opportunity to be amazed at the speed with which erstwhile apostles of stability have changed their tune.

Let them mark the words of Christian Democrat general secretary Professor Kurt Biedenkopf, who has pointed out that a free-market economy is unhealthy when *no one* goes bankrupt.

The bursting of inflationary soap-bubbles on the construction market does not justify demands to reverse policies – certainly not while a number of banks, particularly in the public sector, continue to keep certain building contractors above water whose subsequent bankruptcies are likely to drag more reputable enterprises into the quagmire of Carey Street.

Economic policies, sad to say, bear out the truth of a claim that is borne out in everyday experience in other sectors: that small-timers have to bear the brunt while the big fish get off the hook, multinational corporations resorting to cheaper money in other countries and exporters being financed by their customers.

Prices are the barometer of economic and monetary policies. As long as they continue to increase the danger of inflation remains unabated. Restrictions are bound to jeopardise job security, but although monetary stability can be maintained under full employment it cannot under overemployment.

Not until consumers feel the pinch and think twice before spending money rather than buying left, right and centre in view of rising prices can there be said to be a silver lining on the horizon.

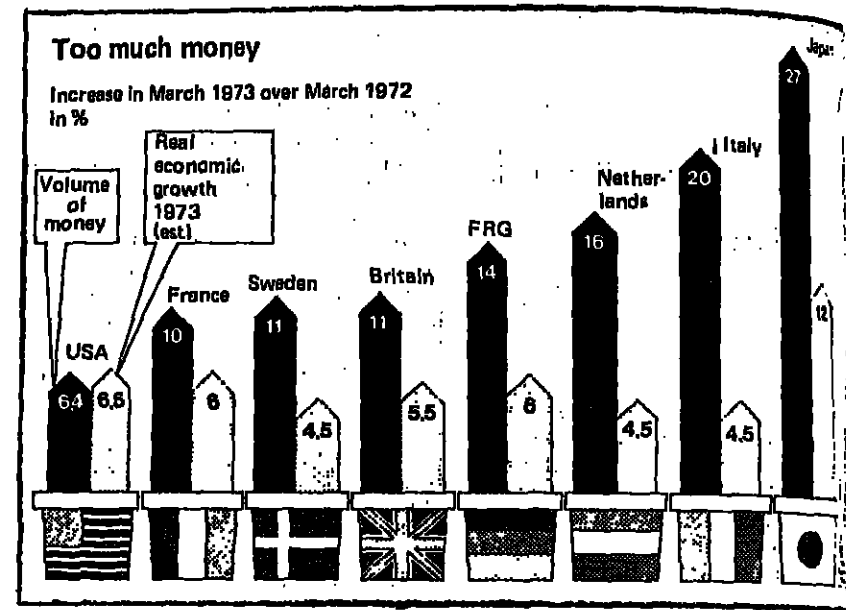
Talk of a general economic crisis or slump is exaggerated, however. The clearing banks have some 50,000 million Marks on deposit with the Bundesbank and have seldom had so much cash in hand, as it were.

What is more, the 1967 recession, which was averted a little too soon perhaps, proved that there certainly are ways and means of keeping economic crises at bay.

This, of course, presupposes that a distinction can be drawn between the righting of an economy that has grown out of joint on the one hand and a full-blown crisis on the other.

Franz Thoma

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 28 July 1973)



Comecon treats EEC as a necessary evil

The deputy premier of Czechoslovakia has shown an interest in direct relations between the European Economic Community and the Eastern European economic bloc Comecon.

During his visit to Vienna a week previously the Soviet government leader Alexei Kosygin expressed similar sentiments. Kosygin said that there were signs of a trend in this direction, but that it would be incorrect to confine claims of improved economic relations between West and East Europe to the limits of Comecon and the EEC.

Inter-State economic contacts involving East and West were of vital importance, he said. And it is clear that slowly but surely the Soviet Union is coming to accept the realities of the Common Market.

But recognition is slow in coming, and the Soviet Union would be delighted to see a collapse of the EEC – as the French leadership in particular well knows – because it is an irritation to the Marxist elite in Eastern Europe. Western Europe's capitalist system has created a great centre of magnetism and is making more progress than Eastern economists have achieved.

Kosygin does not want cooperation with Comecon to make the Common Market even stronger and therefore he intends to ensure that the foreign trade and economic cooperation arrangements in Europe as a whole are not monopolised by the two organisations. He would prefer that the State kept the trumps in its own hands.

Concern has been expressed at these tactics by the European Commission. Foreign relations with regard to trade will be entirely a matter for the EEC rather than individual countries from the end of next year onwards.

Economic cooperation is not covered by the Treaty of Rome, but in the opinion of EEC Commissioner for Foreign Affairs Sir Christopher Soames it would undermine the joint foreign trade policy if the Community were not granted rights along the lines of joint policies in questions of economic cooperation.

But the nine member countries are not agreed on this point. Most of them want to guard jealously their sovereignty in foreign economic, and hence foreign policy, matters, since economic cooperation is not covered by the Treaty of Rome.

This is something that Kosygin has been able to latch on to. The fact that he is prepared to create a direct relationship between Comecon and the EEC is explained by the Soviet desire to keep a tighter control on the economic contacts with the West struck up by Eastern European States.

Since Moscow is out to modernise its own economy systematically with help from the West it is not absolutely essential for the economic relationship between East and West in Europe to be intensified by means of making it easier for Eastern European States to squeeze into a Russian economic corset (known as Comecon).

In addition Russia's motives would be well served if Eastern European governments did not directly accredit ambassadors at the EEC in Brussels, but instead left it to the comparatively anonymous body Comecon to strike up such contacts, so that the East Bloc would not be obliged to recognise the Western European Community as an entity in international law.

This is something that the Soviet leadership is out to avoid, since it still hopes it can force the EEC to become a Western European sub-organisation subordinate to overall pan-European economic cooperation.

Moscow's economic interests mean that it can no longer pretend the EEC is not there – even though the Russians still wish the Community would go to Hell!

Hermann Bohle

(Kieler Nachrichten, 21 July 1973)

More sophisticated aid for Third World

Frankfurter Rundschau

Bonn plans to coordinate its development aid projects with international concepts to a greater extent than in the past. The Federal government intends to concentrate more on (long-term) sectoral and regional planning by the countries of the Third World, and the aid workers sent to developing countries will be more highly trained and specialised.

These plans are set out in the sequel to the development aid policy statement issued by the government on 11 February 1971 and were discussed by the Bonn Cabinet in early July.

Developing countries are more sophisticated today than a few years ago and therefore require more highly trained experts from this country.

The Federal Development Aid Service (DED), which is responsible for training aid workers and sending them to the Third World, will concentrate in future on the less highly developed territories and step up its cooperative ventures with volunteer and youth organisations in the countries in question.

In addition Bonn intends to expand cooperation with the United Nations Voluntary Service (UNVS).

In the sphere of trade and monetary policies Bonn is in favour of the break-down of trade barriers which hamper trading in raw materials as well as finished products and semi-finisheds.

Within the framework of the European Community Bonn plans to press for worldwide expansion of the Community's development aid policy, an improvement in the system of general customs preferences, a step-by-step increase in duty-free import quotas and abolition of quantitative restrictions.

Within the framework of the International Monetary Fund Bonn intends to press the case of developing countries for a share in special drawing rights, "even if this means disadvantages for the industrialised world".

The Bonn Minister for Economic Cooperation, Erhard Eppler, told the press in Bonn on 11 July that in future our development aid programme would be concentrated on a smaller area, in particular the 26 so-called "least developed countries".

Moreover Eppler has stated that he will hold talks with Finance Minister Helmut Schmidt with the aim of pushing this country's public aid to the Third World up to the 0.7 per cent of GNP demanded by the United Nations. At the moment this country contributes less than half this amount.

Hans Lerchbacher

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 12 July 1973)

■ BUSINESS

Retail trade profits situation is desperate

Summer is half over and the retail trade is drawing up its returns. We have not yet reached the end-of-summer sales, but it is already clear that the last fourteen days of July will not have brought record turnover, and even if they did the profits would have been small.

In fact the constant decline in profits despite the continuing increase in turnover is threatening to put many retail traders out of business. The reason is inflation.

Inflation has brought a flood of paper money to tills in this country and created an illusion of rising profits. But this is a fairytale. And among members of the general public there is a widespread belief that the retail trade could keep prices stable or even reduce them if it wanted to.

One indication of this is the early introduction of special offers in the shops with reduced prices, many of which were about by early June. Another supposed sign of the ability to cut prices is the premature dropping of price maintenance on certain articles.

And now we have the start of the traditional end-of-summer sales when there are bargains a-plenty.

All this increases distrust among consumers. They feel that prices could be lowered on a more permanent basis. There is a feeling that if retailers will not voluntarily cut prices they must be forced to do so.

There have been calls for consumer strikes and boycotts and more and more people seem to be listening to these suggestions. These are storm clouds that must be worrying retail tradesmen.

And the tradesmen are now trying to make it clear to the public that they are unjustly being made the scapegoats for inflation. Customers just do not seem to understand that the cut prices they have been able to take advantage of recently were for end-of-stock remainders, especially in the clothing line.

Nor are they aware that the abolition of resale price maintenance for well-known branded goods is not likely to have much effect on shop prices, since in many cases manufacturers have been able to up their wholesale prices.

The half-yearly balance sheets of the retail trade have lifted the veil that had fallen over the naked truth about prices. Nominally turnover was up by something like ten or eleven per cent on last year. But when the boost given by inflation was subtracted from these figures the net increase was more like three and a half to four and a half per cent.

Turnover was up by a well-above-average amount in the case of household durables – something like fifteen per cent – but for clothing the nominal increase was only about five per cent, which in real terms meant a decline compared with the corresponding period of 1972.

The second half of this year is likely to be subject to much worse conditions. And for 1973 as a whole the retail trade does not expect to match last year's figures. In textiles and many other branches figures are expected to be in the red.

The facts and figures concerning price trends bear out this supposition. There is no indication that the price spiral will level off in the foreseeable future.

Hopes that farm produce prices would drop have faded as a result of the exorbitant increases in the price of fodder on the world market. The oil sheikhs are taking every cent they can screw out of oil-consuming countries. And Bonn has joined in the general trend, demanding Pfennigs per litre more for petrol since the beginning of July.

The world markets in raw materials are enjoying a boom. Prices for cocoa, copper, zinc, wool and cotton are soaring to new highs. And as far as wages are concerned there have been outbreaks of wildcat strikes, which it is difficult to appease with more cost-of-living increases.

Turnover in the retail trade can scarcely be expanded in real terms. The rise in costs has been astronomical. Returns on turnover are plunging. In staff costs alone tradesmen reckon they will be paying fifteen per cent more by the end of this year than at the end of 1972.

But the main burden is transportation and delivery costs. These are anything between fifteen and twenty per cent higher than in 1972 and reflect the boom at home and abroad in industrial nations bloated by inflation.

Chief buyers for major stores and retail trade groups are searching all over the world for goods offering better value with qualities to suit the tastes of the spoilt West German consumer. But despite all their skills they still have to pay more to their suppliers, whose overheads have soared out of all proportion.

Costs are therefore rising more rapidly than turnover. Competition is so fierce that it is not often possible to pass on the full effects of higher costs in terms of higher prices.

Consumers are also feeling the effects of inflation. They have to spend more time than in the past pondering how they will spend the money available to them. This is particularly so at the present moment when people are returning from holiday with little cash to spare.

Retailers are afraid that demand will plummet and are worried about how consumers will react when the summer sales are over and the autumn fashions come in – with still higher prices.

Fear stalks both large and small concerns. Managers are constantly searching for ways in which they can keep prices down. They are making the most penny-pinching cuts, such as lighting in shop windows! In many high streets the lights go out now at nine o'clock, an hour earlier than they used to.

The profits explosion of the retail trade is in fact a profits *erosion*. Now shop managers are concerned just to keep their heads above water. As summer draws to a close there are dark clouds on the skies of many a retail tradesman. And so there should in the skies of their customers as well.

Werner Lichey

(Die Welt, 23 July 1973)

Industry can't keep up — Growth over same month of last year in %

1973	orders	productivity
Jan.	+38	+7
Febr.	+22	+12
March	+18	+6
April	+17	+8
May	+32	+6

Boom still booming

So far there are no convincing signs that the overheated economy is about to cool off bringing a levelling off of the price spiral, according to observers at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs.

But in its latest report on the economic situation the Ministry says there are initial signs that companies in this country are adapting to the restrictive policies pursued by the government and Bundesbank.

Statistical data for May showed quite clearly how essential it had been for the government to implement a stabilisation policy. Industrial demand was far higher in May than it had been in the previous months. It once again touched the extremely high level of the turn of the year.

But the Ministry feels this development can be partly ascribed to anticipation of the government's stabilisation measures. Compared with the corresponding months of last year in-coming orders were up by almost one third in May and by a quarter in the first five months of this year.

Domestic demand in May was up by 29 per cent, while demand from abroad increased by as much as 43.5 per cent. The capital investment goods industry is at thy top of the tree with a growth rate of 51.5 per cent. And the backlog of orders on which companies can fall back has increased further.

In-coming orders pushed up turnover in the processing industries by fourteen per cent and in the capital investment industries by 22.5 per cent.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 July 1973)

Never-never is up — savings are down

Bremer Nachrichten

It seems as if people in the Federal Republic are making a habit of running up debts. This, at any rate, appears to be the upshot of an investigation carried out by the Bundesbank into capital assets and money owed.

The Bank reports that last year two per cent of total consumer expenditure was financed by loans. The sum involved was 8,200 million Marks, almost half as much again as in 1971 when total new indebtedness was 5,800 million Marks.

At the end of 1971 private households had 35 milliard Marks on the slate. In just twelve months, indebtedness rose to 43 milliard. And this does not take into account home loans.

The figures include credit for consumer goods, for semi-durables and for objects that have, or should have, a long life such as cars. In the period covered by the survey incomes increased substantially, but the amount of new debts incurred was up by far more than the amount of cash available for consumer spending.

The Bundesbank has ascertained that the public has become far more "interest conscious" in the light of soaring prices and the decline in the value of the Mark.

But Bank officials say that private wealth invested in cash and savings deposits, bonds, building-society investments and assurances brought an estimated return of four per cent in 1972, and with State promotional schemes taken into consideration the yield was more like five per cent.

"Even when the additional tax concessions on certain forms of saving are taken into consideration the yield on most forms of saving was not enough to cancel out the losses arising from inflation," the Bundesbank report admits.

It is of even greater concern that private debts in the consumer goods sphere are on the increase. In the sixties only 0.5 per cent of consumer spending on average was financed by loans, but by 1971 this was up to 1.5 per cent and last year it rose to two per cent.

Since never-never debts – unlike normal consumer spending – cannot be fully encompassed by statistics the actual level of indebtedness is likely to be considerably higher than the Bundesbank knows.

Finance houses provided 37 milliard of the 43 milliard indebtedness, and they have drawn a number of conclusions from statistics. The Bankers Association decided as long ago as May to recommend its 300 member institutes to stop advertising personal loans.

The major banks belonging to the association did so many months ago, but the cooperative popular banks and savings banks have stated clearly and concisely that they intend to go on praising the advantages of the live-now-pay-later scheme.

The Bundesbank's view of the increased expenditure by people of money they do not have is that it is an expression of the widespread inflationary mentality.

The guardians of the currency have shrugged their shoulders and admitted that higher incomes have not led to more saving. Despite the repayment of the tax surcharge last summer savings were down in the first quarter of this year compared with the corresponding period of last. The Bundesbank says that the slump in savings shows anticipation of further inflation.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 21 July 1973)

Cost of living rises 7.3%

Even excluding the price of foodstuffs, affected by seasonal fluctuations, the cost of living has risen by over seven per cent within a year. According to the Federal Statistics Office and the Bonn Consumer Study Group (AGV) products subject to seasonal variations have only a limited influence on prices.

In the first half of this year the cost of living was 7.3 per cent up on the same period of last year. Foodstuffs subject to seasonal fluctuations showed the biggest rise – 20.2 per cent. The smallest rise was in rents – 5.9 per cent.

Prices of industrial and commercial consumer goods rose by six per cent, while the service industries and repairers added 7.4 per cent on average to their bills. Foodstuffs that are not affected by time of year rose by 7.6 per cent.

AGV predicts that the above average increase in seasonal foods will return to a normal level in the second half of this year, always assuming that Europe's fruit, vegetable and potato harvests are up to expectations.

But this normalisation will have only a minimal effect on the overall cost of living. Much more depends on non-seasonal produce where the increase is likely to remain above normal.

The extremely high increases in the prices of imported produce continued throughout June, according to Statistics Office figures. On average we had to pay 18.2 per cent more for imports this June than last.

The continued strength of the Mark against foreign currencies, which should make imports cheaper, has been easily overtaken by the rise in import prices that has been marked since last autumn.

Roland Müller

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 25 July 1973)

■ INDUSTRY

Neunkirchen steel firm runs into managerial trouble

Two of the oldest coal and steel families in the country have recently been responsible for an odd item of news on the managerial front: the resignation of an entire board of directors.

The Wolffs and the Stumms are the families in question and the company they have to restaff at the top is Neunkircher Eisenwerk AG, a Saar steel concern in which the two families each have a half share.

The managerial merry-go-round immediately gave rise to rumours that the two families are at daggers drawn, but the Stumms and the Wolffs will hear nothing of mutual squabbles.

"I cannot recall a single difficulty in recent years," says Leonhard Lutz, managing director of the Stumm AG, while Otto Wolff von Amerongen, head of Otto Wolff AG and chairman of the Standing Conference of Federal Republic Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT), is similarly disarming, claiming that "in recent years there has been no serious disagreement."

When the two families joined forces in the late twenties they agreed in any case to settle their differences in private and to adopt a joint approach on the supervisory board. "It's like a conclave," the Stumm family manager Lutz explains. "We either reach agreement or we stay in session."

Even so, individual members of the ninety-strong Stumm family have been known to voice misgivings about Wolff von Amerongen. In their view the DIHT chairman has let things slide in Neunkirchen for far too long, finally being to blame for the management showdown as a result of inept intervention in the running of the firm.

What is more, certain members of the Stumm family who still live in the Saar credit Wolff with what they feel to have been unfriendly comments about the location of industry in the Saar – comments that have given rise to rumours that the company is thinking of moving elsewhere.

As it happens, the Stumm clan did not actually start out in the Saar, for that matter. The family firm originated in the valleys of the Hunsrück mountains by the banks of the Rhine.

In 1715 Johann Nikolaus Stumm was granted the right to forge weapons and ironware. The family did not move to the Saar until a century later, when scarcity of raw materials decided them to take over the Neunkirchen Ironworks in 1806.

The firm did not really gain a nationwide reputation until the days of Karl Ferdinand Stumm, who made Neunkirchen a powerful coal and steel concern with business interests extending far beyond the Saar.

While Krupp supplied much of the world with his legendary guns Stumm supplied first-rate sheet metal for the hulls of warships. Karl Ferdinand was raised to the nobility, and Bismarck, a personal friend, nicknamed him "King Stumm."

Karl Ferdinand von Stumm died 67 years ago and there is now hardly a member of the family who can lay claim to management prowess.

The four branches of the family had a limited company (GmbH) to look after their interests until four years ago, when the firm was converted into a joint stock company (AG) and a board of directors appointed who were no longer members of the family.

Interested first and foremost in making substantial profits, the Stumm heirs appointed the one-time Henschel manager and later Secretary of State at the Hesse Economic Affairs Ministry, Leonhard Lutz, managing director.

With head offices in Essen in the Ruhr Lutz manages a group consisting of 54 firms with more than 25,000 employees and annual turnover of 1,860 million Marks. The only administrative unit still based in Neunkirchen is the company that manages the family's extensive estates.

The number of members of the family who still engage in business of one kind or another can, according to Lutz, be counted on one hand – "and even that is too many." The best-known is Christian Democratic Bundestag member Knut von Kühlmann-Stumm, a farmer at Schloss Ramholz in Hesse.

The Stumms, who have family ties with any number of noble families, are increasingly dissatisfied with Neunkirchen ironworks, which reported turnover of 522 million Marks last year.

Over the past two years, which have been marked by a steel slump, the Neunkirchen works have notched up 21.7 million Marks in losses, and when, not long ago, Bonn finally abandoned the idea of a canal linking the Saar with the Rhineland-Palatinate even the more optimistic members of the Wolff and Stumm families came to realise that the future prospects of the Neunkirchen foundries are gloomy.

The Saar is poorly located from the viewpoint of transport and access, and the firm's accounts department has worked out that a ton of pig iron produced in Neunkirchen costs 26.87 Marks in coal and ore freight, as opposed to the mere 7.50 Marks Thyssen spend on freight to and from Duisburg on the Rhine.

One outcome of this competitive disadvantage was that in 1971 steel production at Neunkirchen declined by 19.5 per cent – twice the national average. At a time of crisis the handicaps facing a steelworks not centrally located in the Ruhr grew increasingly apparent.

The family paid no attention to the advice given by banker Hermann Josef Abs, at that time chairman of the Stumm supervisory board, to forge closer links with other iron and steel firms in the Saar.

Patriarchal managing director Kurt Schluppkotten was on the brink of retirement and had no intention of allowing his style to be cramped by cooperation agreements of one kind and another. Plans were drafted, but nothing came of them.

As a result one possible partner found itself another stable-mate. Röchling of Völklingen merged with Burbach in 1971, so joining forces with Arbed, the Luxembourg steel concern.

Wolff von Amerongen conducted intensive negotiations with the French majority shareholders in Dillingen steelworks, the aim being to establish closer ties, but the talks came to an unsuccessful conclusion last year.

Neunkirchen has a 32.2-per-cent holding in Dillingen but is enable to bring substantial influence to bear on the Dillingen management. "We would do better to have the money in the savings bank," one member of the Neunkirchen supervisory board sarcastically comments.

From Cologne Wolff started to change the management structure in summer 1971, pensioning off Schluppkotten and replacing him by dynamic econ... Wilhelm Scheider, 45, previously managing director of Walzstahlkontor Sa...

Wolff did not fancy making Sch... the spokesman for the board, let alone chairman.

The upshot was that Neunkirchen no longer had a single man at the ... Instead Otto Wolff increasingly intervened in the company's affairs from Cologne, even appointing his ... nominee as deputy to the techn... director Wilhelm Winkler.

Business director Kurt Becker also ... a Wolff deputy seconded to him with ... rank of general manager.

When Krupp managing director ... Wolf Mommsen offered the se... Scheider a place on Krupp's b... Scheider did not hesitate long be... accepting. Disappointed by the s... comings in cooperation at Neunkir... Scheider decided to move to the Ruhr.

Further changes came thick and fast ... response to Scheider's resignation ... sonnel manager Helmut Jockel ... and with the board only at half st... Otto Wolff decided to make a ... sweep.

He forced the remaining members ... the board, Kurt Becker and Wil... Winkler, to resign too, and ended ... interregnum by appointing a ... managing director, Rolf Müller, 46, ... of Wolff's ablest men. Müller came f... the board of Bochum steelworks, j... owned by Wolff and Thyssen.

Müller and his team are to forge ah... with a reorganisation aimed at ... down pig iron production at Neunkirchen. The uneconomic foundries ... be replaced by an electric steel ... using scrap. Its two furnaces will ... combined annual capacity of 550,... tons. Three thousand of the firm's 9,300 employees in Neunkirchen will ... made redundant.

Hans Otto Ei...

(Die Zeit, 20 July 19...)

Battle royal for control of Photo-Porst

"Counter-revolution," fumed Porst director Hannsheinz Porst, 50. "A clash of opinions" was the diagnosis of Porst director Dieter Reiber, 47.

For two days the nine-member advisory body that constitutes Porst's board of management argued the toss in a hotel at Elfershausen on the Saale.

After breakfast on Friday, 13 July, a decision was reached behind closed doors as to the future of the photographic dealers with a turnover of 170 million Marks and a payroll of 1,500.

The board accepted the resignation of director Reiber from a post worth 234,000 Marks a year and a three-litre BMW. Director Porst, who last year partially expropriated himself in reorganising the firm's structure, was voted spokesman for the management and thus once more became the boss of his own firm.

The millionaire and Marxist (Porst's description of himself) had triumphed over the manager and a personal friendship had come to a close.

This friendship began eight years ago and was largely responsible for the Porst group's recovery. Dieter Reiber, a one-time local reporter for *Stuttgarter Nachrichten*, joined Porst supplier Kodak in Stuttgart in 1957 and proved to be a sales ace. His greatest success was the lauching of the Instamatic camera in this country.

Porst took on Reiber at a salary of 4,000 Marks a month on 1 February 1965, and the Kodak salesman moved from Stuttgart to Nuremberg. The family firm, set up by Porst's father in 1919, was undergoing a trying period.

Photo-Porst had done well in the post-war period but between 1959 and 1965 turnover declined from 75 million to thirty million Marks. On 12 May 1964 Hannsheinz Porst was arrested at the behest of the tax authorities and when Reiber joined the company proceedings were still in progress.

The outcome was a fine of two million Marks and the repayment of nine a half million Marks in back taxes.

The cool, pragmatic Reiber and the romantically enthusiastic Porst soon struck up a close friendship. At work and on joint angling and rambling expeditions Porst came to realise that Reiber was "an unbelievably valuable partner."

Reiber became Porst's second-in-command and took over the reins when in 1967 Porst was arrested on charges of treasonable contacts with the GDR Ministry of State Security. In 1969 Porst was found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment in Landsberg gool until October 1970. Landsberg, it may be recalled, was where Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf*.

In the meantime Reiber held the fort in Nuremberg and made the Porst concern an economic proposition again, the firm having slumped still further.

Rudolf Augstein, the proprietor of *Der Spiegel* who spent some time behind bars suspected of treason in the early sixties, whiled away the time by studying the Old Testament and publishing the results of his meditation.

Hannsheinz Porst spent his time thinking about alienation and self-determination at work, and on being released ahead of schedule discussed his ideas with his friend and aide Reiber.

Not two years later, om 8 October 1972, the two men unveiled the Porst management scheme, Hannsheinz Porst handing over his various firms – P... Porst KG, Eurocop KG, Exdata KG ... Deutsche Supplement KG – to the s...

By 1977 the staff will have ... ulated credits amounting to a 32-m... Mark majority shareholding in the f... Five members of the managing board ... appointed by the staff conference, ... by the holding company that manages ... staff's capital and two by Porst him... who retains a fifteen-million-Mark ... in the firm.

The companies have performed w... late, though whether or not the ... ownership scheme is responsible ... matter for conjecture. This year ... concern is expected to turn over ... million Marks and net a profit of ... million Marks (a million and a half ... which will go to Marxist Porst).

But the more the firm's post... improved, the more relations between the two directors Porst and Reiber deteriorated. Reiber ("I have spent eig... years getting the firm out of the re... insisted on chairmanship of the board ... the final say.

Porst ("Most of the staff rate ... opportunity of self-development ... highly than cash.") would not hear ... idea. He advocated equal rights ... the management and majority decis... at all levels.

So it was that a battle royal was fo... out at Hotel Ullrich in Elfersha... Reiber spent an entire day fighting ... power. Then he gave in and handed in ... notice.

Hannsheinz Porst was once again ... equal than others.

Reiber slept for a couple of hours ... then reflected on his future. Should ... stay in management or launch out ... own? After sixteen years in manag... Dieter Reiber decided to be his own b...

(Wirtschaftswoche, 27 July 19...)

THE STAGE

Erlangen Drama Festival revival is disappointing

Erlangen's traditional International Student Theatre Festival was sabotaged by the students' political protests in 1968. But the event had fallen into a state of apathy anyway.

The productions staged raised no critical claims. Instead of providing a stage for articulating demands that cannot otherwise be made, the Festival had fallen into the trap of becoming *l'art pour l'art.*

Erlangen has had to begin where it left off. A retreat into aestheticism appeared impossible and yet theatre cannot dispense with the quality of expression, especially if it plans to change the real world.

This is one of the inherent contradictions of all drama – and the Erlangen Festival. At any rate student theatre (in the few instances where it genuinely occurs) is no longer seen as a model for the theatre at large.

The largest Festival revealed the contradictions and the shaky link between political and theatrical enlightenment and between the professional and amateurish appearance of the individual ensembles.

Many of the groups appearing in Erlangen aimed at producing a direct didactic effect on various sections of the community. These sections of the community – apprentices for example – were, however, not represented. That is not surprising. Audiences in Erlangen have always been composed of students.

Disappointment was in store for any observer who believed that the Erlangen Festival would return with new vigour after the five-year gap. The organisers had obviously been careful not to open old wounds.

Administrative difficulties also played a role. The Festival depends on subsidies. The municipality, Federal state, central government and industry contributed sixty thousand Marks.

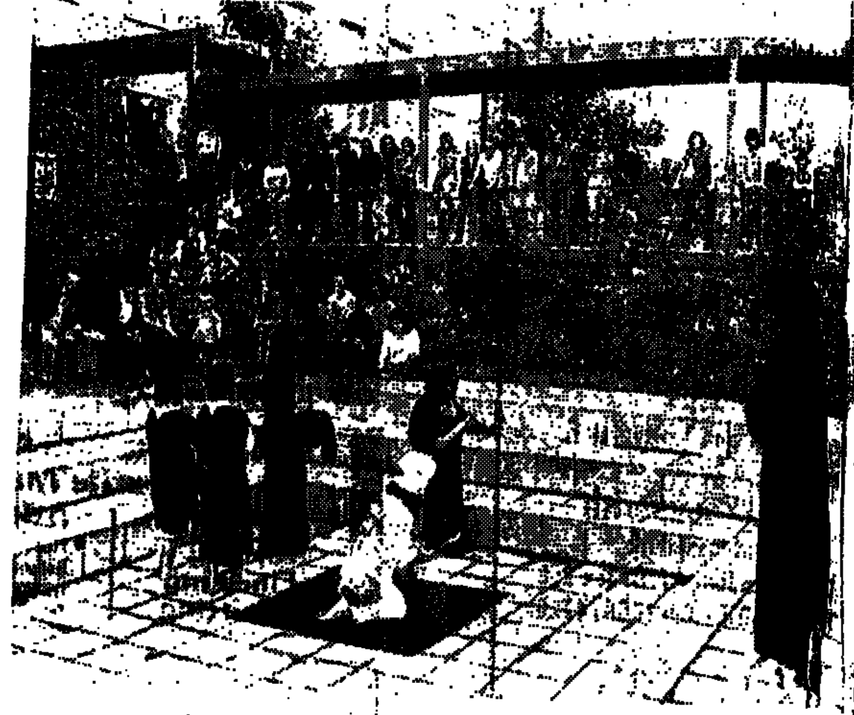
The very first production – *1848*, a historical collage by the Theatermanufaktur group of Berlin – was an example of theatrical experiment. It was experimental in the discovery of new material and new methods of expression for the political theatre.

It departed from the Brechtian tradition and, by incorporating the methods of pantomime and cabaret, presented a chapter of German history in an entertaining, though informative manner. Instead of featuring the history of the ruling classes, it provided a history of the people.

A Belgrade ensemble came next with a *l'art pour l'art* spectacular which modified style in order to pass ironic comment on theatre by employing theatrical methods. This was followed by a two and a half hour liturgy by the Teatro Ditirambico Madrid.

Hoffmann's Comic Theater of Berlin featured next. As the ensemble normally aims to please the inhabitants of the Märkisches Viertel in Berlin, it was appearing at quite the wrong place. The same applies to many of the other groups appearing in the Festival.

But the Berlin ensemble was able to chalk up a success with its working-class drama about the Stulle family. Information was presented in humorous form. The group's shopping spree in Erlangen – which was closely linked with the play – ended with a scene of actively terrorising consumers and the group's ejection. After all a department store is not a stage.



Teatro Ditirambico, Madrid, performing at Erlangen (Photo: S...)

A group from Rome headed by a Spaniard in exile was also in the wrong place when it staged *Senor Francesco's Slaughterhouse* in the Markgrafentheater. The impressive scenic performance mocked Fascism and pointed to the inadequate journalistic facilities under the Franco regime by intentionally confusing reports on the trial of ten Spanish trade unionists and deliberately destroying the scenic opportunities presented. The next day the group organised a demonstration through the streets of Erlangen.

The Libera Scena ensemble from Naples revealed how barren and irrelevant theatre can be when it immerses itself in hollow artistry. The group presented an extremely tiring distortion of Goethe's *Urfaust* as a farce.

But the Warsaw Student Theatre demonstrated that artistry could be significant and could sharpen the senses. The group pantomime, not to say ballet, presented a fascinating series of symbolic scenes questioning the relationship of the individual to the community and Socialist society.

It can only be hoped that the organisers of the Erlangen Drama Festival have learned from their administrative mistakes. Performances must not be repeated according to a stereotyped programme but according to their general significance and public response.

Additional time must be set aside for discussion, which should after all form an essential element of the Festival even though there was little evidence of it this year.

But the most irritating feature at the Festival was the yearning for the good old days. The people who loudly acclaimed the accomplishments of the past evidently failed to realise that this year's Festival, though the eighteenth in all, was actually the first of a new series.

Wilfried Geldner

(Vorwärts, 26 July 19..)

Re-vamped Munich Festival could rival Salzburg

Three of the sixteen works staged by Munich's Nationaltheater at this year's Festival are additions to the programme, two have been reintroduced as purely "festival" operas and the others have been provided with fresh appeal in the shape of stars.

Günther Rennert is trying to find a new form for the Munich Festival – the tenth to take place in the new Nationaltheater – and has tried to change its structure by combining ensemble theatre and *stagione* operations.

Rennert has been justified in his actions by public acclaim. But the press in Munich is still not assured that his course is correct. Both the interpretation and choice of works have been criticised.

The idea of looking upon specific works as a festival repertoire and treating them as such appears tempting, even though this concept contains a number of inherent contradictions.

If for example Mozart's *Clemenza di Tito*, Isang Yun's *Sim Tyong* or Aribert Reimann's *Melusine* are only performed during the Festival, this decision could be justified by the fact that these works meet with little public response during the normal season.

On the other hand there is also something appealing about the idea of not staging festival works during the rest of the year. This course could always avert the danger of an opera losing all its attractions in the normal season and then being omitted from the repertoire.

Engaging stars for operas which are performed throughout the normal season without stars can only be justified when, as in Munich, a Festival ensemble is formed and required by contract to return next year.

Rennert has achieved his aim of presenting well-rehearsed top-class productions instead of the arbitrary collection of soloists that can often be heard at a gala evening.

Covent Garden and the Paris Opera always work according to this semi-*stagione* system. Splendid new productions are staged a number of times with the same cast, and are subsequently omitted from the programme for one or even two years before being put on again.

The new production of *Don Giovanni* at the Munich Festival for instance was eventful. No opera house in this country could offer such ideally cast roles at present as Margaret Price as Donna Anna, Julia Varady as Elvira, Lucia Popp as Zerlina, Ruggero Raimondi as Don Giovanni, Stafford Dean as Leporello, Kurt Moll as the Commendatore and Hermann Winkler as Ottavio.

Don Giovanni in the cemetery with the status of the Commendatore (Photo: Sabine Toepffer)

Rennert's direction emphasises the human aspects of the story, avoids the mysterious or even supernatural interpretation and regards the Commendatore as an augur and not as divine power. There is obvious logic behind the entries and transformations and this is emphasised by Jürgen Rose's stage design which sets the scene well.

Wolfgang Sawallisch conforms to Rennert's ideas with a musical interpretation that is never daemonic or overdone. He stresses instead the chamber music elements of the accompaniment, the direct aspects of music-making, the harmonic correspondence with the orchestra, which sits extremely high up in the pit.

There is no romantically threatening violence in the music, especially in the overture, but this degree of moderation proves to have its stylistic and musical merits – above all harmony and balance – in a number of arias sung by the lesser characters which Mozart meant to act as a pendant to the vocal side of the score and not as an addition.

Unfortunately the same degree of harmony between stage and orchestra was not achieved in the case of Reimann's *Melusine*. Helmut Käutner's stage design was too superficial, based primarily on the effects that could be obtained from the revolving stage.

No tension arose until Melusine ... this stage the production achieved an almost oppressive degree of expressive intensity to parallel the ... of Reimann's opera.

Ferdinand Leitner's musical direction was at times too loud – at least for the Cuvilliestheater – but ... dramatic and precise. Thanks to the excellent casting – many ...

Continued on page 11

THE ARTS

Rolandseck pays tribute to Apollinaire

Guillaume de Kostrowicki, better known as Apollinaire, (1880-1918) the French poet called "the Father of Surrealism" had strong connections with the Rhineland town of Rolandseck.

Sitting on the terrace of the railway station he looked out across the Rhine and decribed in verse the street flecked with shadows running along the river with fleeing cars seemingly in panic like ignoble riders, while steamships on the ribbon of the Rhine disappear into the distance.

It was in 1901 at the age of 21 that Apollinaire first came to Rolandseck. He took a look around and decided to stay. He loved the landscape, believed he had found in it the essence of German Romanticism and drew his inspiration from it.

"On the green shores in Rolandseck I sat and dreamed. Roland's nun on the island of Nonnenwerth seemed to lose her age among the little girls," he wrote. The seven mountains, he said, rested like animals. "There they slept, while watching over legendary princesses."

The station in Rolandseck was a great centre of social activity as well as a stopping place for trains. The railway was closed years ago, but every effort has been made to preserve the old atmosphere of the station.

In 1856 rich people from the Rhineland built a railway line from Cologne to Rolandseck, where the station was designe in neo-Classical style. It was a pompous building with huge halls and a "platform" for banquets.

The celebrations continued even after the station was nationalised in 1860. Among the guests over the years were Bismarck, Alexander von Humboldt, Uhland, Wilhelm II, Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth of Rumania, Heinrich Heine, Clara Schumann and Franz Liszt.

And of course Apollinaire, to whom a large exhibition at the station has been dedicated. The exhibition is also in honour of the Franco-Federal Republic friendship Treaty, which celebrates its tenth anniversary this year.

At the official opening there was a number of prominent politicians from this country and France, but unfortunately President Georges Pompidou, who had intended to come, had to cancel.

Rolandseck's "Apollinaire Festival", which ends on 15 August, includes lectures, theatrical productions and readings. Why exactly the readings from Alain Robbe-Grillet and Michel Butor are scheduled for after the 15 August closing date seems inexplicable.

The central part of the Festival is a well documented exhibition of the life and works of Apollinaire. In August 1901 the poet became private tutor to the family of one Baroness de Milhau in Bad Honnef. Shortly afterwards the family moved to Oberpleis.

No sooner had he arrived in Germany than Apollinaire set off on a voyage of discovery. He visited the Carnival in Cologne and Cologne University (where a photograph was taken of him), visited Düsseldorf and the Maria Laach Convent and discussed the legends and traditions of the Rhineland.

Occasionally he sent articles to the French press, among other things complaining about the poor condition of German roads.

He became involved in a love affair with a young Englishwoman in Rolandseck, but as so often in Apollinaire's life it ended unhappily.

He wrote poems, short stories and reports. And it was at this time that Guillaume Albert Vladimir Apollinaire de Kostrowicki adopted his *nom de plume.*

In Germany he experienced what was later to be called "the great change". When he returned to Paris in 1902 he had become one of the greatest literary agitators and strategists.

The exhibition gives a precise view of the phases in the life and work of Guillaume Apollinaire. There are letters to newspapers and magazines, newspapers in which he has written articles, first editions of books, photos and critical appraisals of his work. Finally there are the obituaries for Apollinaire who died in Paris at the age of 38.

Novelist Horst Homburg has gone to great trouble to gather material for this exhibition from all over the world. Even the helmet Apollinaire was wearing in 1916 when he received the head injury that was to contribute to his death, a piece of shrapnel from a grenade, is on show.

According to the legend the poet was in a trench reading the last edition of *Mercure de France* when he was injured.

Those who enjoy this exhibition can continue to do so at home. Editions Gallimard have published a 315-page book on Apollinaire containing most of the Rolandseck exhibits, as well as a drawing of Apollinaire by Picasso. But the book is not cheap at 50 Marks.

Christian Linder

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 July 1973)

Continued from page 10

singers from the two previous productions of the opera at Darmstadt and Berlin were engaged for the Munich Festival – *Melusine*, Reimmann's best work, proved once again to be extremely impressive.

Reimann has now been commissioned by the Munich Festival to write an operatic version of Shakespeare's *King Lear* with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau in the title role.

The new Munich production was only played four times before being put into mothballs ready for the next Festival. Taking into account the star ensembles of the other standard works, especially the new Ponnelle production of Debussy's *Pelleas and Melisande*, it appears that the Munich Festival could prove a serious rival for Salzburg.

W.-E. von Lewinski

(Deutsche Zeitung, 27 July 1973)



Guillaume Apollinaire with his girlfriend Annie

(Photo: Bahnhof Rolandseck)

Pankok *Jugendstil* exhibition opens in Stuttgart

Handelsblatt
DEUTSCHE WIRTSCHAFTSZEITUNG

Jugendstil fans, who feel they have been neglected, can visit the Pankok exhibition at Stuttgart Landesmuseum, and they will then probably see why it is so difficult to present an exhibition giving an overall picture of this school. The exhibition is as near to being ideal as could be managed.

The craze for *Jugendstil* has been with us for years now and we were beginning to get sated until it became fashionable to be sentimental, and nostalgic longings cried out for less *nouveau* art.

This appetite for something a little decorative in a functional and sober age is not surprising, but until now exhibition organisers have done little to satisfy the appetite.

Bernhard Pankok (1872-1943) was head of the Stuttgart applied art school for twenty years and helped to make it world famous. Much of his work that is still extant can be found in the Stuttgart area today.

But what use is this to the curator of an art gallery faced with the task of reconstructing a complete work of art, a task that seems well-nigh impossible.

Even the most delicate of Pankok's chairs, a work of art none the less, is no more than a single note of a great symphony if it cannot be presented along with the tables, cupboards, mirrors, pictures, lamps, carpets, wallpaper, curtains, windows, indeed the whole house, that belong with it.

This madness for totality as part of the new feel for life did not exclude even the smallest details such as doorknobs and clothes-hooks. These take forms such as the neck of an ostrich.

When you remember that Pankok was not only an interior designer, but also won fame as a portrait painter, architect, stage-designer and illustrator of books you see quite clearly what it means to enter the sphere of influence of an all-round *Jugendstil* genius.

The exhibition could not be a complete success, despite the fact that the catalogue lists a respectable 800 items. It could not include the cabin of an airship which Pankok decorated, shunning the flirtations with detail that were so beloved of the age and carrying out the work with functional elegance. The airship's flying days are long since past.

And the two Lake Constance steamers whose interior – and exterior – design were executed by Pankok have long since gone to the scrapyards.

At least Haus Lange in Tübingen will remain for posterity as a glowing example of unbridled *Jugendstil* imagination. It is now a museum.

Pankok's pioneering spirit manifested itself mainly in decorative arts and crafts, however, and so this memorial exhibition, which is boosted with documentary exhibits, excels mainly in the wealth of luxurious furniture on show.

Pankok, born in Westphalia, came into contact with the great stylistic reformers Obrist and Endell in Munich in 1892. They had declared war on the era of plush and trash in all spheres.

The first furniture designs by Pankok were almost Gothic with their figures striving for the Heavens and all manner of gnarled excrescences on the joints.

These quickly made him famous and developed into works with the typically anti-historical, individualist and thoroughly elitist tendencies of *Jugendstil*.

Expensive woods, intricate inlaid work with subtle colourings usurped over the years the typical old German elements of carpentry. Surfaces became less cluttered, while furniture became more compact and less weighty.

Pankok was never a fan of the right-angle so beloved of functionalists. Compared with the mighty surge of technology and social development, this revolutionary appears a reactionary. Perhaps this is fortunate for today, an age when the two terms have become interchangeable.

Wolf Schön

(Handelsblatt, 24 July 1973)



Bernhard Pankok's *Musiksalon* which he designed for the World Fair, 1909, St Louis (Photo: Katalog)

■ EDUCATION

Saarbrücken University probes student drop-out problem

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

An increasing number of students are tending to break off their course of study before taking their final examinations. The drop-out rate amounts to some twenty per cent among medics, 25 per cent among law students and as many as forty per cent in economics and social sciences. An increasing number of students are also taking longer before daring to sit their final examinations.

It is this latter group above all that Education and Science Minister Klaus von Dohnanyi has set his sights on in the preliminary draft for a framework university law. From the 1976 winter semester onwards students will be expected to complete their course of studies in three or four years.

The main argument in favour of tightening up the regulations is that those students who stay too long at university are monopolising a study place and, in those subjects with entry restrictions, causing long waiting lists with the result that some would-be students are forced to give up all ideas of studying.

Dohnanyi realises that the long-term students' refusal to sit their final examinations is not just the result of laziness. That is why his Bill proposes a tightening up of courses of study and a better student advice service.

It is still rather obscure how these recommendations will take shape in practice. A study compiled by Saarbrücken University's Study Advice Research Department may give some indication of how student welfare can be improved.

The Research Department was commissioned by the Education and Science Ministry to discover the reasons why students break off their course of study prematurely or switch subjects in midstream and also put forward recommendations of how this state of affairs could be remedied.

Four groups were interviewed:

Students who had already studied at least two years longer than the average period of study required for their subject (long-term students);

Former students who broke off their course of studies after at least three semesters;

Students who studied at least two years before switching to a subject bearing no relationship to their original course of study;

A control group of university graduates who spent no more than the average number of semesters on their subjects and passed their final examinations.

Although only 85 students or ex-students took part in the survey, the findings permit a number of conclusions, especially where study advice is concerned.

One of the main findings was that background played an equally important role at university as at school. The survey confirmed the widespread belief that successful students have generally grown up in more favourable conditions.

Both material conditions and the parents' attitude to education play a part here. One striking feature is that among mothers of successful students there is a high proportion of career training graduates while the mothers of students who break off their course of study have not normally had any career training.

This fact suggests that these mothers place greater emphasis on performance which later leads to their children's success at university. From this it can also be concluded that an extension of the present pre-school system would have a beneficial effect on future students and go some way toward establishing the currently much-vaunted equality of opportunity.

But social differences between the students have nothing to do with their performance. The Research Department's study stresses that there were no marked differences in the social origins of the four groups.

The main difference between successful students on the one hand and the long-term students and drop-outs on the other is one of personality structure.

Students who break off their course of study prematurely are always worried about their health and tend to have physical disorders. They are easily depressed, allow trifling matters to irritate them, have a tendency to be pessimistic and require a relatively high degree of social recognition.

Long-term students often have difficulties in adapting themselves to situations, they are unable to adhere to conventions and unwilling to accept general ideas of values. They are insecure and tend to feel inferior, though to a lesser degree than those students who break off their course of study prematurely.

Successful students and those who change their course of study in midstream display no features generally specific to their group. Those who change their subject are, however, often victims of an education system that provides school-leavers with too little information about their impending course of study.

The outcome is that students have the wrong idea about what they have let themselves in for and only learn that they have made a mistake after embarking on the course.

Not even successful students could provide any precise advice on the most economical and effective way to study. This is the main problem where they too are concerned.

However, the survey revealed that they were largely free from financial worries. Only 25 per cent of the graduates interviewed had needed to take a part-time job to finance their course of study compared with sixty per cent of the long-term students.

The long-term students had an average of 523 Marks a month at their disposal as a result, considerably more than the graduates in the control group who had only had 355 Marks a month to spend.

But the long-term students claimed that they could not cope so well. Working during their vacation dampened their enthusiasm for studying. They were isolated because the people they had known when they first came to university had all taken their final examinations and left.

The resulting loneliness when preparing for examinations increased their fears. Long-term students were found to be more afraid of examinations than members of the other groups.

The Research Department's study, which forms part of a comprehensive research project, recommends administrative measures and more student advice. Children in their final years at school should be given more accurate information about subjects and courses of study so that they finally make their choice

Continued on page 14

Report on study exchanges

This country's Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) recently published its annual report providing a comprehensive survey of its activities in 1972. A total of 949 students from practically all over the world were awarded grants to study in the Federal Republic and over 1,100 other grant-holders had their awards renewed.

The successes chalked up by DAAD grant-holders are most encouraging – 98 students were awarded their doctorate, 87 gained diplomas and 59 passed their bachelors or masters examination or gained similar qualifications from a college of art.

A total of 234 students – mainly Africans – were awarded grants enabling them to study at a university or college in their home country. They could then be trained according to the requirements of their country and did not face the problem of adapting to life in the Federal Republic and then re-integrating into the life of their homeland.

More than 1,400 students and young academics from the Federal Republic were awarded grants by DAAD to study abroad or take advanced courses. Foreign governments or colleges awarded supplementary grants in 157 cases.

Another of DAAD's major responsibilities is acting as an agency to recruit academics for foreign universities and help them when they return to the Federal Republic. By the end of the year DAAD had recruited 113 scientists from the Federal Republic, primarily scientists, to work at universities abroad, mainly in Africa and Latin America.

DAAD has tended to adopt the policy of recruiting academics for specific projects being conducted abroad. At present the organisation is sponsoring almost three thousand academics from this country for projects abroad, primarily in North America, Switzerland and Austria. A total of 243 academics returned to the Federal Republic from their work abroad.

Guest lecturers in German language, literature and history – as well as scientific German – have become a permanent fixture at many universities abroad. Of the 352 lecturers appointed by DAAD a little more than two-thirds were allocated to European countries, mainly France and Britain. The main overseas countries benefiting from this service were, as in past years, Japan, India and Brazil.

Providing these lecturers with educational courses and information about their host countries will be one of DAAD's main aims in future. It is frankly admitted that the provision of teaching materials is inadequate.

DAAD also financed visits by groups of foreign academics and students for study purposes. Almost three thousand persons have benefited from this scheme. Most of them came from Belgium, Argentina and the United States.

DAAD also provided the money for 31 groups from this country to study abroad. Almost one thousand persons benefited. One interesting feature is that Eastern European countries are expressing interest in DAAD's study travel programme when signing cultural agreements.

Under DAAD's university exchange service 2,184 foreign students came to the Federal Republic to take a practical course of study relating to their subject.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 16 July 1973)

Schools today enjoy more independence

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Schools have followed the lead of universities and demanded greater autonomy and a share in decision-making. The Education Commission's latest recommendations reveal a tendency that has long been observed in reports issued by education authorities – the tendency to increase the independence of schools and allow parents and pupils to benefit from the greater room for manoeuvre that results.

A survey conducted by dpa press agency discovered, however, that plans for the school sector do not go anywhere near as far as those operating at the university level.

Some educational authorities have already taken action. Hamburg is one example. Others are expected to follow during the course of the year. Drafts have been submitted in Lower Saxony and Berlin and the final text of provisions for Bremen and the Rhineland Palatinate are planned for this autumn. North Rhine-Westphalia and the Saar plan to follow towards the end of the year.

So far Hamburg is the only Federal state to have reformed its education laws in line with the Education Commission's recommendations. New legislation is due to come into force on 1 August.

Pupils have been given a greater share in decision-making, depending on age. While pupils under twelve are not allowed to participate in the taking of decisions those above sixteen are now able to enjoy without restriction more rights on the grade and school conferences.

Hamburg has made "sense of judgement" the prime criterion for active membership of these committees. North Rhine-Westphalia has decided upon a scheme under which the number of parents represented will go down over the years while the number of pupils rises.

The limits to pupils' sharing in decision-making are revealed in the composition of the decision-making bodies. The three-way parity planned or practised in the Federal states of Hamburg, Bremen, the Rhineland Palatinate and Bavaria has little in common with the three-way parity at universities. Those committees with an equal number of teachers, parents and pupils have more of a consultative than a decision-making role in nearly all parts of the country.

Some Federal states are extremely hesitant about introducing three-way parity on their school committees. North Rhine-Westphalia allocates half the seats to teachers and the other half to parents and pupils together.

In Lower Saxony the Teachers' Union (GEW), which generally supported the three-way split at the universities, has called for at least fifty-per-cent of the seats on all school committees for its members.

But as in the past it will be the State that will take decisions on the most important issues. Teachers in Hamburg will be able to propose candidates for the post of headmaster, and the school conference, consisting of an equal number of teachers, parents and pupils, will be able to approve or reject the proposal. But the final decision will still be taken by the authorities.

Schools in Berlin will be able to choose their headmasters from two applicants, schools in Bremen from three. But here, too, the candidates will probably be put forward by the Senator for Education.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 July 1973)

■ MEDICINE

Scientist investigates 'the death wish' among primitive people

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Our ideas of death, especially of the exceptional psychological situation that can lead to a person's death within a few days without any recognisable illness or other external cause, are today still largely based on purely empirical observation.

No precise scientific explanation can be given for this strange phenomenon, not even after studying events which take place in a sphere readily accessible to doctors, for instance a gaol or prisoner of war camp.

In individual cases there may be some plausible explanation for why a convict dies a few days before his release. But one of the great mysteries confronting medicine is the question why persons deprived of their liberty occasionally lose all interest in life as a result of the constant strain to which they are exposed, resulting in total apathy and death within a short space of time.

Sigmund Freud recognised that the inescapable nature of the convict's situation represents an insurmountable problem to him. In his treatise *Das Ich und das Es* he develops this theory: "The ego must also come to the same conclusion when it is faced by excessive real danger which it does not believe it can overcome by its own powers. It sees itself abandoned by all protective powers and allows itself to die."

Freud's definition of the ego allowing itself to die is still the most fitting explanation for a form of death for which no other reason-springs to mind. The time and energy doctors are once again devoting to this problem is outlined in Dr Klaus-Dieter Stumpfe's study of the various aspects of psychogenic death.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the study for contemporary observers is the alarming exposition of how the elementary patterns of behaviour found among primitive tribes also feature in Western civilisation.

Dr Stumpfe describes a number of cases of psychogenic death, the form of death that we Europeans find so inexplicable, most of them based on eyewitness accounts.

One African had to have his leg amputated as a result of an injury, and his condition following the operation was described as good. But he told his doctor that he no longer wanted to live with only one leg, refused to accept any food and died within 24 hours.

A few days later one of the dead patient's friends claimed that the spirits had told him he was to die too. Although the people around him said this was nonsense, the man died three days later.

One of the most impressive examples of psychogenic death is the case of three men who were seriously injured by a leopard when out big game hunting. Two of them had been practically scalped while the third had no more than a scratch on his throat.

But it was this patient who told the doctor that he was going to die. When the injured men returned to hospital the next morning as instructed, the man with the scratch on his throat was no longer with them. He had gone home and claimed that he was being killed by black magic. He died shortly afterwards.

Of course people brought up to think along European lines will ask what the real cause of death was. But it is practically impossible to answer this question. Neither of the two deaths described here can be attributed to blood poisoning or violently sustained injuries. The injury was considered a taboo and the curse this entailed was the reason why the patients died soon afterwards.

The eye-witnesses named by Dr Stumpfe are writers with adequate critical faculties and they were aware that they were describing a phenomenon incomprehensible to the European mentality.

One of the eye-witnesses notes: "Only know-all Europeans would scorn the fact that a verdict of death passed by priests could kill a person miles away. We Europeans who live in the tropics know better."

As mental influences evidently play a major role here, an attempt has been made to counteract them. This course of action met with success in the case of a twelve year-old girl who had been forced by a number of boys to swallow baking powder and was told that this was black magic and that she would die as a result.

One of Dr Stumpfe's eye-witnesses employed even more potent magic. He gave the girl a sugar cube coated in essence of ginger. The strength of this mixture made the girl catch her breath – but the curse was broken.

When we learn how calmly these people die as a result of black magic, we are able to understand the comparable cases of prisoners-of-war dying in captivity. In his book *Doctor in Stalingrad* Dr H. Dibold writes: "Unfortunately there were also a number of sick people who did not return home because they let themselves go. They lacked the will to think, to move their muscles, to breathe or to feel." American soldiers in Japanese captivity described this strange condition as bamboo sickness.

Similar cases of people allowing themselves to fall sick were observed in the German concentration camps. These persons often died within a few days.

Dr Stumpfe can only guess at the organic basis of psychogenic death. He does not exclude the possibility that this type of death is prompted by the activation of inhibiting impulses which considerably impair the normal physical functions.

The will to die

In the case of the African who had a leg amputated death cannot be attributed to his refusal to eat – it takes more than a few days to die of starvation.

In most cases, though not in all, the lack of the will to live any longer could prompt a physical condition that eventually leads to death. This theory would explain death by black magic or death in prisoner of war camps. But we still do not know the organic reasons.

Alfred Püllmann

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 13 July 1973)

■ OUR WORLD

Benefits of open-plan office are now hotly contested

Nordwest Zeitung

Office furnishers and architects have in recent years come to greet large open-plan offices as the thing of the present and future. They have been described as the ideal conditions for making people work together more efficiently and more happily. But now the idea is starting to be discredited.

People who have been working in open-plan offices have expressed their dislike of the places and now the experts have started to have their doubts.

In a lecture at the 2nd Health and Hygiene Symposium in Bonn on the subject of "Hygiene at Work" Professor Heinz Schmidtke of the Institute for Ergonomy (work science) at the Technische Universität, Munich, discussed the pros and cons of open-plan offices.

His conclusion was that the advantages are nil. Neither the firm nor employees benefit from working in a large office with no walls.

Although the initial fervour for open-plan offices has started to subside gradually about one in five new offices being built today is still open-plan.

Employers do not seem very impressed by the objections raised by staff, who have stated that they would much rather work in a small room alone or with a couple of colleagues at most – even if it means giving up their deep-pile carpet and teak desk!

Whether they like it or not they are on the receiving end of the craze for open-plan which affects architects, who then force their ideas on management. The supposed advantages are: better cooperation with work colleagues, less time spent walking from one office to another and the breakdown of hierarchical structure.

This last point for one – described as a significant step forward – functions far more in theory than in practice.

Even if the boss has his desk somewhere in the large open office the outsider can quickly see who is in charge. The partition walls are soundproofed so that he does not have to put up with the clatter of typewriters and the ringing of telephones, his desk is made of expensive wood and was obviously not bought at a department store. Or maybe his insignia of office amount to no more than the flourishing rubber plant by the side of his desk.

Professor Schmidtke said: "The fine-sounding eypression open-plan office means nothing more than the encroachment of the factory floor atmosphere into offices, so that one of the main emotional barriers separating white and blue-collar workers is removed."

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why the proponents of open-plan have begun to talk of this system as a "team office", a "function bureau" or even "an office landscape".

In his lecture Professor Schmidtke referred to the forerunner of the open-plan office, namely the "typing pool". This idea was also rejected by those expected to work there, he said. "Secretaries lost their image and became just another shorthand typist. They felt that being in a typing pool lowered their prestige in the office."

Many typing pools have been abolished and typists put in smaller offices. It was discovered that the atmosphere in these big offices aggravated certain professional sicknesses such as swollen tendons, and that they did not make for the greater contact between workers that had been anticipated. Professor Schmidtke would not commit himself on whether the same applied to open-plan offices.

But he is convinced that any advantages are minimal. He wonders whether the motivation behind the creation of open-plan is really a system of values, or whether it is just vested interests at work.

A scheme of values that takes in genuine human needs has so far not been in evidence, but all we have seen has been the commercial endeavours of office furniture manufacturers who have such open-plan bureaux for sale.

The most frequent complaints from office workers who have been in open-plan surroundings for a number of years are:

- Noise. Colleagues bawl out to each other across a space of three "offices". Their business does not concern others working in between and is a major distraction.
- Difficulties with concentration. Whenever someone walks past your desk it is a disturbance, and it happens every five minutes or so.
- Air-conditioning. Cold feet, hot heads! The fact that such complaints are justified is conceded by the press spokesman of Osram, Munich, who recently proudly held an open-day for their "bureau landscape" for all who were interested.

He said: "Basically the trend is away from open-plan offices. When offices are properly partitioned off it does not mean that every time you have a question you go and ask the chap in the next office. Workers tend to hold their horses until they next see the person who can answer their query."

Professor Schmidtke admitted that for generations people such as draughtsmen have been working efficiently in large open offices without undue interference from those around them.

He said that psychologically what was wrong with the open-plan office was the fear it engendered among workers of becoming just another statistic, a mass-produced human, a small fish in a big pool. His solution: "Humanity counts more than modernity."

Ingeborg Lieret

(Nordwest Zeitung, 18 July 1973)

Public against extremists in top jobs, survey reveals

Most people in this country are opposed to political radicals working in senior positions in the civil service, according to the Wickert public opinion research institute in Tübingen, conducting a survey commissioned by the government of Baden-Württemberg.

Wickert questioned 2,067 West Germans whether they objected to those with extremist views being employed as teachers, judges or senior police officials. Sixty-three per cent were opposed to the idea, 26 per cent had no objections, eleven per cent were of no opinion either way.

There was an even stronger body of support for the "security clause". Asked, "do you consider it right that the government should ascertain whether a person is in favour of a free and democratic social system before employing him in the State service? " 72 per cent replied in the affirmative. Nineteen per cent were against this question and nine per cent didn't know.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 10 July 1973)

Fewer people keep glad-rags for Sunday

Seventy-one per cent of people in this country still got their Sunday best out of mothballs every Sunday last year, but there is a definite trend towards casual wear for the first day of the week.

According to the Allensbach public opinion pollsters who carried out this survey as many as 84 per cent of people in the Federal Republic stated that they got their best bib and tucker out for Sunday wear just five years ago, or at any rate dressed more smartly on Sundays than in the week.

In the past five years the group of people who claim to dress "the same on Sunday as any other day" has increased from thirteen to 25 per cent of the population.

The figures were found to be roughly equal for both sexes. But among men there was a greater tendency than among women to dress even more sloppily on Sunday than on other days.

There are two explanations for this trend. On the one hand more and more people in this country are concerned to wear good clothes all through the week and not retain them for Sunday wear.

And secondly leisure clothes designers have produced a new range of clothes that suit the rest-day pastimes of people in this country far better than smart suits, starched collars and formal ties.

Education, income and work status affect people's choice of Sunday wear considerably. Age and place of residence have a lasser effect.

Seventy-nine per cent of those interviewed with an elementary school education dress more smartly on Sundays than weekdays. Those with lower school certificate are less fussy – only 51 per cent put on their glad rags for the Lord's Day. And among those with higher school certificate the percentage is down to 27. In this latter group with a higher level of education 61 per cent say they wear the same type of clothes on Sunday as on other days, while twelve per cent dress more simply for the day of rest.

This pattern is repeated among the various types of occupation when one takes into consideration the educational background required. Eighty-six per cent of farmers, 80 per cent of skilled workers and 76 per cent of technical experts dress more formally on Sundays.

For clerks and civil servants, freelances and the self-employed the figure is only 63 or 64 per cent. Among senior clerks and government officials it is down to 52 per cent.

Of course the more a worker is tied to an office desk in the week and is forced to wear a clean white shirt and tie the less he feels like putting formal clothes on at the weekend.

This also explains why those in th higher income brackets less readily doll themselves up on a Sunday.

In rural areas as many as eight out of ten people dress smartly on Sunday while in towns the figure is 63 per cent.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 July 1973)

Company chief becomes Ibo chieftain

Frankfurter Rundschau

Three Nigerians Edward, 25, Mo 24, and Orlando Oparaugo, who were threatened with deporta from the Federal Republic in mid will almost certainnly be allowed to in this country and pursue their st

Their appeal to stay in this country probably be accepted, now that proprietor of a firm in Überlingen offered to stand surety for the co their studies in this country.

The Nigerian students' benefactor Briton, Mr Alec Eden, 38, visited parents of the three young students Nigeria and was given a most u reward for his kindness by the Ibos. the first non-Ibo ever to have been an honorary chieftain with all the ri the position entails.

This is not the first time Mr Eden assisted Nigerians. A few years ago he up an orphanage in Nigeria and wo for many years as a research chemist in leper colony.

His latest act of kindness came wh the almost penniless Nigerian stude looked like being ground in the relentl mills of the bureaucracy in this country

A firm in Ravensburg had offered th three a grant and the Federal Repub embassy in Lagos did not have sec thoughts about flying the three lads to t country without any particular form ties.

When they arrived, , howev, th Ravensburg firm withdrew its offer of grant and the three Nigerians were l their own devices. They had been in t country several months, but the lo government office in Ravensburg saw to accuse them of illegal entry to t country and threatend to deport them. the Nigerians' lawyer managed to ob revision of their case.

Although their fate has not yet finally decided their representative Alec Eden are optismistic. When he about the threatened expulsion in t press Mr Eden immediately sprang their defence.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 July 19

Student drop-out problem

Continued from page 12

after weighing up the pros and cons not on the basis of what they attracted most by.

Extensive written material, talks with university representatives and information about future careers are demanded. The Research Departm also believes that students should be giv some opportunity of taking th problems along to lecturers.

Finally, any potential drop-out shou have a final interview with a lecturer his department. He should also recommended to go along to a psychiatr and psychological advice centre.

On the whole the recommendation aim at making contacts between stude and university teachers closer than th are at present. A further investigation w probably be needed to explain how th can be brought in line with univers growth and plans for comprehens universities with 25,000 to 30,00 students.

Lukas Kluge and Rainer Hartmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 23 July 1973)

■ SPORT

Davis Cup defeat in Prague for tired tennis aces

DIE ZEIT

On an island in the Vltava, the river on which Prague stands, the tennis stadium, now over fifty years old, is packed to capacity. As freight train locomotives noisily make their way across the railway viaduct overhead the fans work themselves up into a frenzy of applause for their local heroes.

To win in Prague, the old hands say, you need more than the mere ability to lob the ball into a corner of the court the opponent can no longer reach. What is more, this year's local hero is the Wimbledon winner Jan Kodes.

Kodes is a quiet, unassuming family man who wears a grey jacket, grey trousers and grey socks, and it was in Prague's groying tennis stadium, tarnished by decades of smoke from passing locomotives, that he was instrumental in knocking the Federal Republic of Germany out of the Davis Cup.

"You know," he explained, "your young players are very good, but they could be even better if only they had a little more patience. You don't always have to take mad shots in tennis. There are times when you have to wait until the other man makes a mistake. The score is the same."

Kodes, needless to say, is far too good a tennis player to play nothing but a waiting-game. His words are reminiscent the Good Soldier Schweyk, with perhaps a suspicion of academic training.

The young Germans he means are a strange mixture of the easy grace of past generations of tennis greats and youngsters whose self-confidence can at times prove exasperating.

Karl Meiler of Munich, probably the most talented member of the team, is at times a young man capable of outstanding shots worthy of the all-time greats, shots that have indeed proved more than a match for the world's best on occasion. Then he suddenly seems to hesitate, making the spectator's boot itch and giving rise to sentiments such as "Come on, son, you're a good player. Get in there and win, for heaven's sake!"

Jürgen Fassbender of Bonn is a more reliable player. He is a self-confident athlete and generally gives of his best – with the result that his play seldom reaches real highlights.

The third man is not only self-confident; he is impudent. Together with Fassbender tousle-headed blond Hans-Jürgen Pohmann is one of the best doubles players in the world.

When the Prague crowd tried to fire on their own players with rhythmic applause Pohmann went to the centre of the court and waved his thanks to the stands as though the applause were for himself.

Davis Cup matches are often replete with tactics. In Prague it looked as though this country were expecting to lose the two singles matches against Kodes but to win the doubles and the two other singles against Czechoslovakia's No. 2, Jiri Hrebbec, winning 3-2 on balance. The Federal Republic team failed to pull it off because – oddly enough – one of the visiting players has been too successful over the past ten months. Since last October Jürgen Fassbender has taken part in virtually all major (and financially rewarding) tournaments all over the world. He has played relentlessly, virtually without interruption. In Prague, where for once he was playing for his country rather than for personal kudos or profit, he was beset by something that invariably befalls people under permanent stress sooner or later – a trough. Worn out and in poor physical and mental form, Fassbender lost unexpectedly to Hrebbec, thus clinching the outcome Czechoslovakia's favour.

Jürgen Fassbender and Hans Jürgen Pohmann (Photo: Schirner)

Sensibly enough, though a little late in the day, the Tennis Association ordered him to take it easy for a fortnight. This was only one of the moves inaugurated with the aim of keeping this promising team in being for as long as possible.

Tennis, which has been commercialised in recent years more thoroughly than any other sporting discipline, now has to offer its stars a good deal more than fine holidays to be assured of their loyalty. It must also be a matter of hard cash.

In the United States various tennis circuses are at the ready with tempting offers to turn professional that involve spending nearly the entire summer on the other side of the Atlantic and consequent non-availability for one's country.

One official in Prague noted that he felt like a firm training young apprentices only to see them one after another go to the competition once they had learnt their trade.

In order to alter this state of affairs this country hopes to outrival the Americans by establishing a European circuit of professional tournaments sponsored by large firms.

Swift action is needed, however. Fassbender and Meiler need only sign on the dotted line, but if they do turn professional, they will soon come to realize that a spell of poor form costs hard cash too.

Ulrich Kaiser

(Die Zeit, 27 July 1973)



Emil Beck (Photo: Horstmüller)

World championship triumph for fencing coach Emil Beck

Most of the first-rate foil, epee and sabre specialists at the world fencing championship in Gothenburg, Sweden, have trained at some time or other under Emil Beck of Tauberbischofsheim.

Beck was overjoyed to see his protégés do so well at last, notching up a bronze medal in the overall team placing behind the Soviet Union and Hungrary and the world championship title in the épee.

This showing represented the crowning achievement of twenty years of involvement with fencing for Emil Beck.

Twenty years ago Beck, an eighteen-year-old hairdresser, saw fencing in a cinema newsreel and was thrilled by the idea. With a track suit of old hessian he cycled from Tauberbischofsheim to Bad Mergentheim, twelve miles away, for his first fencing lessons.

A few years later this traffic reversed. It was Beck who was giving the instruction. He proved to have a real knack at transmitting his enthusiasm to young people.

More and more fencing enthusiasts were trained by Emil Beck, and the stage of the local hall soon became the venue of the country's fencing talent. Tauberbischofsheim Football Club boasted the largest fencing section of any sports club in the country.

Emil Beck's home town is now the home of the national training centre, where fencers from all over the world meet for coaching by Beck in the early stages, advanced fencing and perfection.

Fencing as a discipline in tradition dies hard, but although Emil Beck is more than entitled to the designation "master" he has evolved a style of his own and even his youngest protégés, four-year-old tots, cheerfully call him Emil.

International success has not fallen into his lap. Setbacks he has had. His team did not live up to expectations at the Vienna world championships in 1971, and last year's Munich Olympics turned out to be one of his greatest disappointments ever.

His team had been undefeated in fifteen previous international contests, but Rudi Maier sustained a tragic breakdown during the Olympic tournament and by international agreement this country was barred from carrying on to the quarter-finals.

Many a coach would never have survived a setback of this magnitude, but not so Emil Beck. "You can't have bad luck all the time," he commented. "some time or other your luck just has to turn."

And so its has done. This year Beck has notched up three national team championships, two national individual championship titles, two national junior titles, Matthias Behr as runner-up to the junior world champion, three Tauberbischofsheim men in the foil team that won the silver medal at Gothenburg and, to crown it all, the world championship title for his epée team.

This ample confirmation of his methods ought to make life easier for Emil Beck with his own officials, who have often proved as difficult to convince as wins have been elusive. Friday the thirteenth of July has been Emil Beck's lucky day.

Bruni Hennig

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Rudolf Harbig Prize for Heide

Long-jump and pentathlon star Heide Rosendahl (left) is here seen at Munich airport on returning from Berlin, where she had been awarded the Rudolf Harbig Prize for her contribution to amateur athletics in this country. In Munich she was welcomed by a porter and Richard Kick (right), the city's only current national champion. (Photo: Werek)